Le Cirque de Karakuri

からくりサーカス

15

藤田和日郎

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

SS comics

からくりサーカス 15 藤田和日郎

SS comics

小学館
SSC-5685

ISBN4-09-125685-6

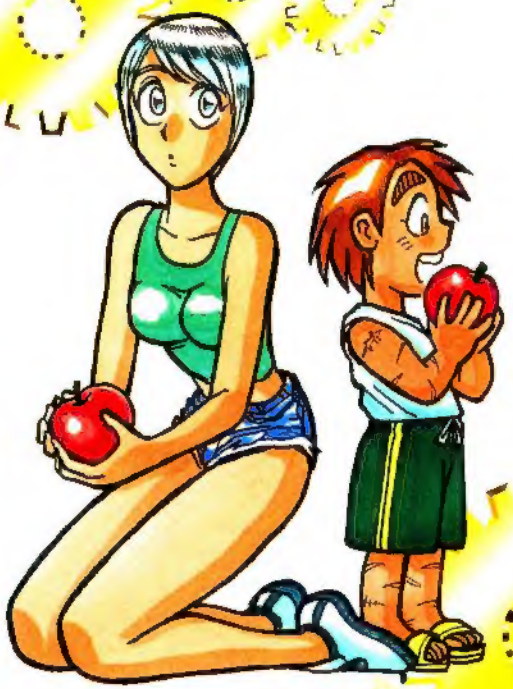
9784091256850

C9979 ¥390E

1929979003906

定価：本体390円＋税

雑誌 45106－85　小学館



SS comics

Le Cirque de Karakuri

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

自動人形の本拠地「真夜中のサーカス」を追う鳴海に異変！
師父の昔話を聞くうちに、鳴海の中に眠るもう一人の意識が、
過去への、彼方への旅を始める…その男の名は白銀。
中国からプラハへ渡り、錬金術を究めんとする男の身に何が？
いま、しろがねと自動人形の、長い戦いの謎が明かされる！
ご存じ、超熱血機巧活劇、運命の第15巻であります。

(久しぶりの)取材のためフランス行った 台湾編

こんな 才千は はじめてだね

台湾のサイン会に呼んでもらいました。外国でのこういう事は経験なく、「ちょっとしかいなかったらどうしよう」と思っていたのですが、たくさんの「からくりサーカス」好きの方が、迎えてくれました。みんな日本の読者と同じ目をして僕のサインを喜んでくれました。うれしかったなァ。生まれ育った国が違っても、面白いことをやろうとしている気持ちは伝わる―そんな当然なコトを感じて帰って来ました。よーし、なんかがんばっちゃうもんね。鳴海や勝、覚悟しろよ!
(え~!?という彼らの声)

藤田和日郎
KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

ブカブカ ドンドン。無限宇宙のビッグバン。曲馬団のファンファーレ。物事にゃ必ず始めが御座居ます。お待たせうまうた本巻は、そもそも始めのまた始め、一体如何なる経緯で、からくり歯車回りだす、この物語が流れるか、それを演じて見せまうしょう。過去のプラハかキュベロンか、ずずーっと昔に来て下さい。「からくりサーカス」第15巻、座長の御見物を願います。

●AD／伊波光司 ●口絵&カバーデザイン／小林美樹代、益子典子+ベイブリッジ・スタジオ ●カバーイラスト／藤田和日郎

15

藤田和日郎

からくりサーカス

Le Cirque de Karakuri

★前巻までのあらすじ★

自動人形の移動基地「真夜中のサーカス」を追い、中国へ向かう機中、鳴海たちは自動人形に襲われる。

空飛ぶ戦場と化した旅客機で、さすがのギイたちも悪戦苦闘。血みどろの戦いの末、ギイは海へと転落。

鳴海とルシールは、墜落する旅客機を間一髪で不時着させるが、そこが仲町サーカスの興行場所だったため、辺りは大騒動。その騒動の中、しろがねと勝の二人は、鳴海らしき人物を発見。だが見失ってしまう。

一方、鳴海は目的地・中国の長江に到着。情報を得るため拳法の師・梁師父を訪ねるが、師は鳴海あての手紙を残して失踪。

早速、心あたりの村へ向かうが!?

からくりサーカス15　目次

からくり～白金・白銀

第3幕　到着……5
第4幕　記憶……23
第5幕　薄紅の滝……41
第6幕　出会い……59
第7幕　フランシーヌ……77
第8幕　天使……95
第9幕　HEAVEN AND HELL……113
第10幕　夢の終わり……131
第11幕　柔らかい石 誕生……149
第12幕　天使が還る……167

■藤田和日郎■

Karakuri~Bai-Jin and Bai-Yin
Act 3
Arrival

ヒヨオオオオ

からくり~白金・白銀
第3幕
到着

AND SPAZZA IN TURN FAILED TO BRING DOWN THE AIRPLANE.
ゴウン
HOWEVER, PAULMAN AND ANZELMAS FAILED EVEN WITH THEIR STUDENTS THERE TO AID THEM.
ゴウン
FLAVIO WAS A FOOL. THERE WAS NO HELPING HIS LOSS.
ギギギ

THESE SHIRO-GANE ...
WORRY ME, JUST A TRIFLE.

AND THIS EASTERNER, THE USER OF QIGONG... NARUMI, WAS IT?
ゴウン
GUY, LOVER OF THE LEGENDARY OLYMPIA.
ギギギ
THE OLDEST OF THE SHIRO-GANE, LUCILLE.

2

THE THOUGHT, AS YOU SAY, IS A TRIFLE UN-PLEASANT.
THEY MAY YET BE ABLE TO INTERFERE WITH THE PLANS WE AUTOMATA HAVE SO CAREFULLY CRAFTED...
ガロン!

BUT IT SEEMS THEY STUB-BORNLY CLING TO LIFE ...
I WAS UNCONCERNED BY THE SHIRO-GANE, BELIEVING THEM CLOSE TO EXTINCTION ...

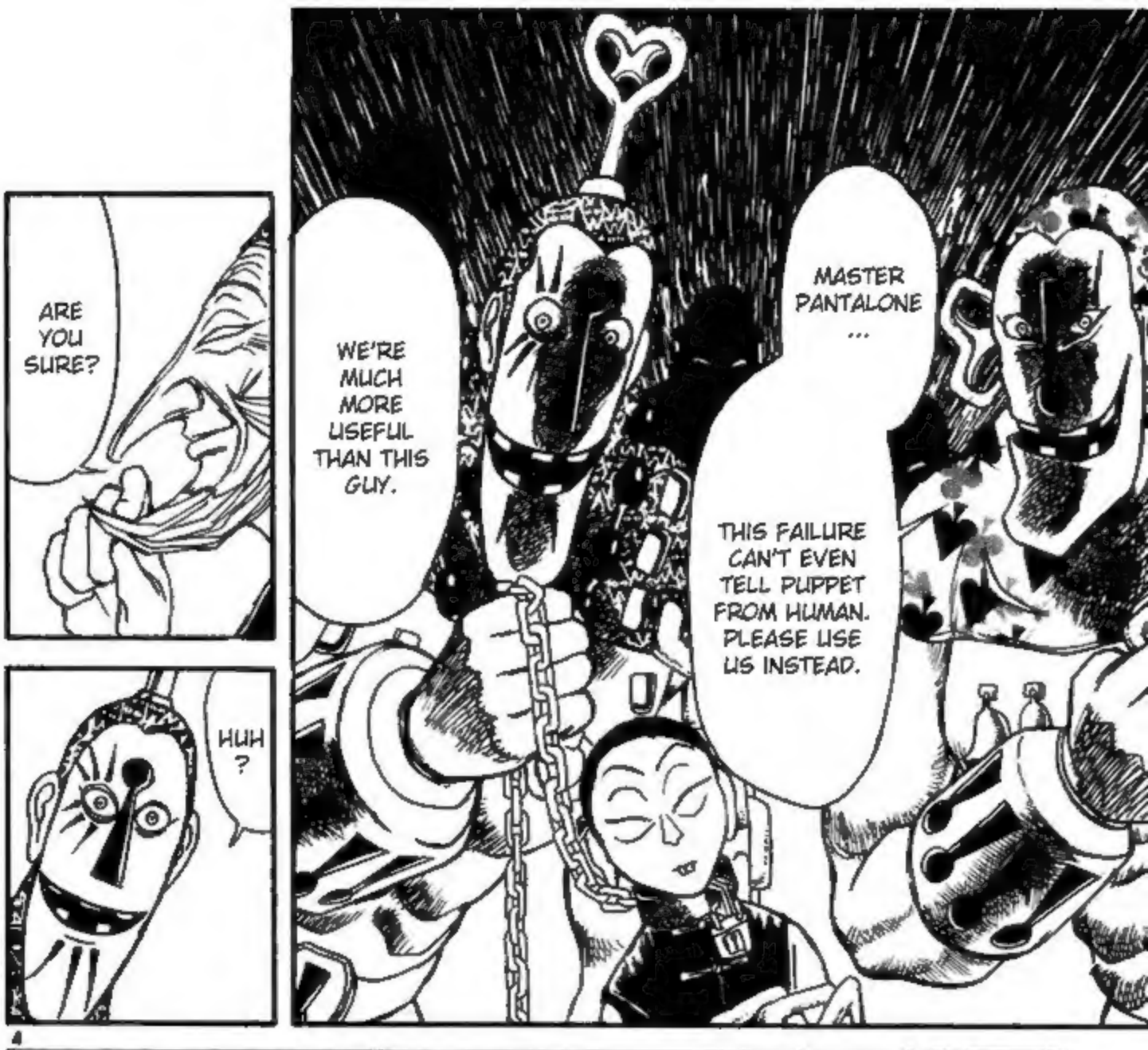
パタン
HMPH... IT SEEMS YOU DISAGREE, PANTALONE.
PERSONALLY, I THINK THEY PRESENT NO REAL THREAT EVEN IF WE LEAVE THEM ALONE. HOWEVER...

3

THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE SENT FOR CHINA HOU.

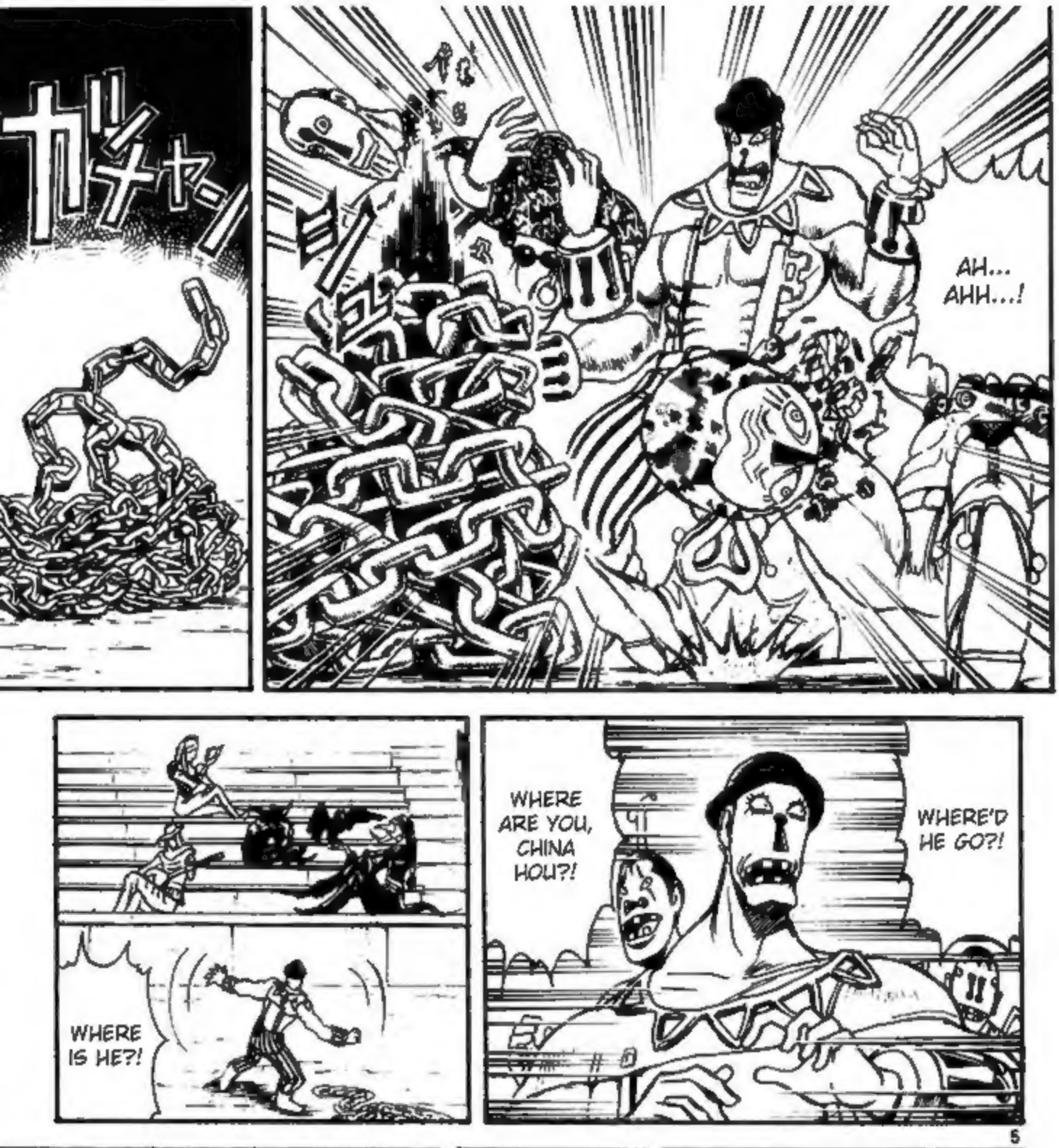
ジルヤラ

7


ARE YOU SURE?
HUH?
WE'RE MUCH MORE USEFUL THAN THIS GUY.
MASTER PANTALONE ...
THIS FAILURE CAN'T EVEN TELL PUPPET FROM HUMAN. PLEASE USE US INSTEAD.

4

WHAT D—
EEZ


ガシャーン
AH...
AHH...!

WHERE IS HE?!
WHERE ARE YOU, CHINA HOU?!
WHERE'D HE GO?!

...? WHAT'S WRONG?
GA GA GA GA
HE LOVES TO SURPRISE PEOPLE.
.....
INTER-ESTING.
HMM ...
ISN'T IT?

6
WAHH...! HOW'D HE GET INSIDE HIS BODY ...?!
ALL WHO MO-CK-ED ME WILL DIE.
EVERY ONE OF YOU.
H-I-I-I-I-I!

CHINA HOU.
THAT'S ENOUGH.

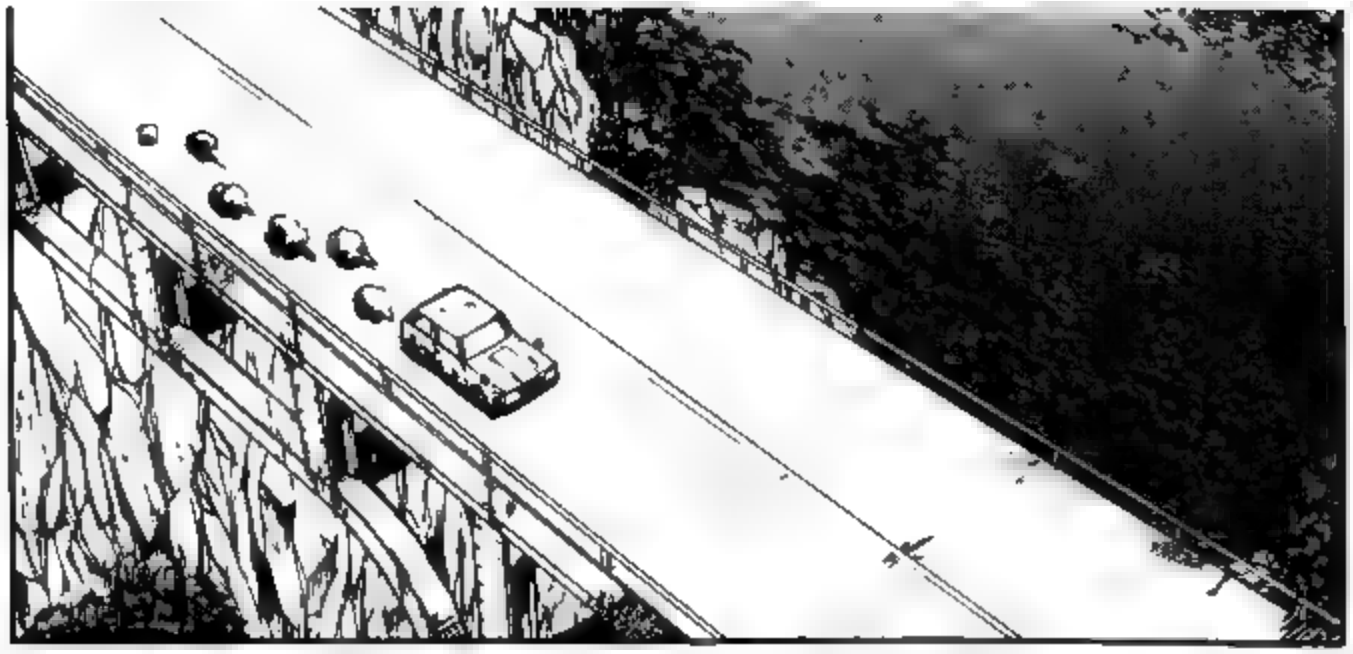
GOOD. LET'S GO.
HA-HAH!

A-A-A-AS YOU WISH, MASTER PANTALONE ...!
HA-HAH!

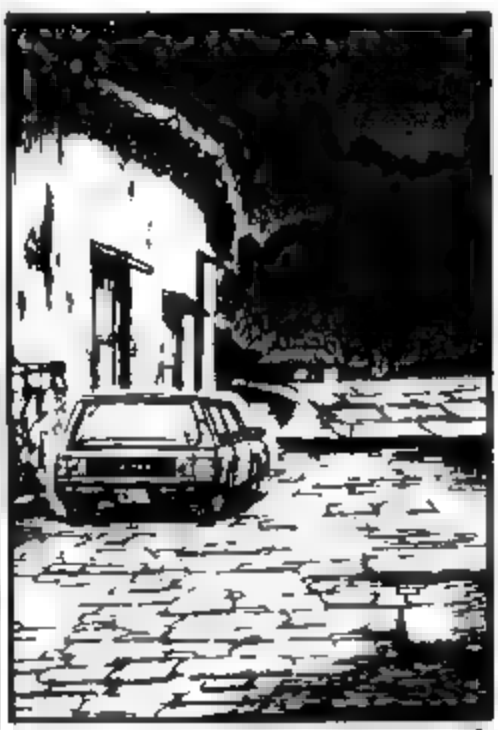
AFTER HEARING ARLECCHINO'S STORY, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THESE STUBBORN SHIROGANE FOR MYSELF.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I WAS OUT AND ABOUT.
THAT'S UNUSUAL.
OH? YOU'RE GOING TOO, PANTALONE?

NOW IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME

ヒュオオ



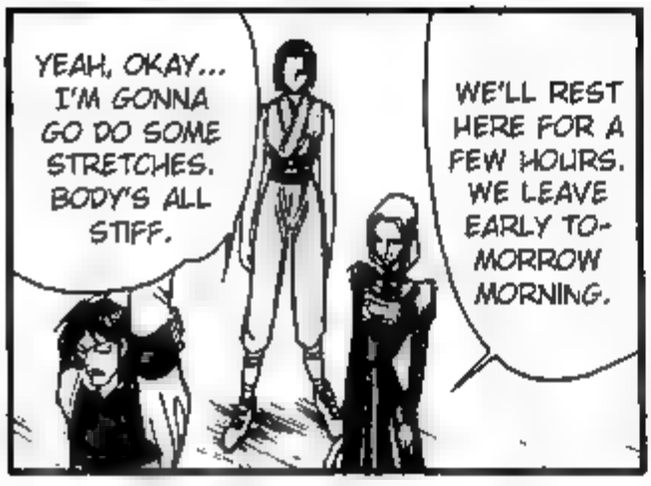
WHAT...?! MING-XIA, YOU SAID MASTER'S HOMETOWN WAS CLOSE BY!
WHY COMPLAIN ABOUT OUR SPEED, NARUMI? IF WE KEEP THIS PACE UP TOMORROW, IT SHOULD ONLY BE ANOTHER 18 HOURS.

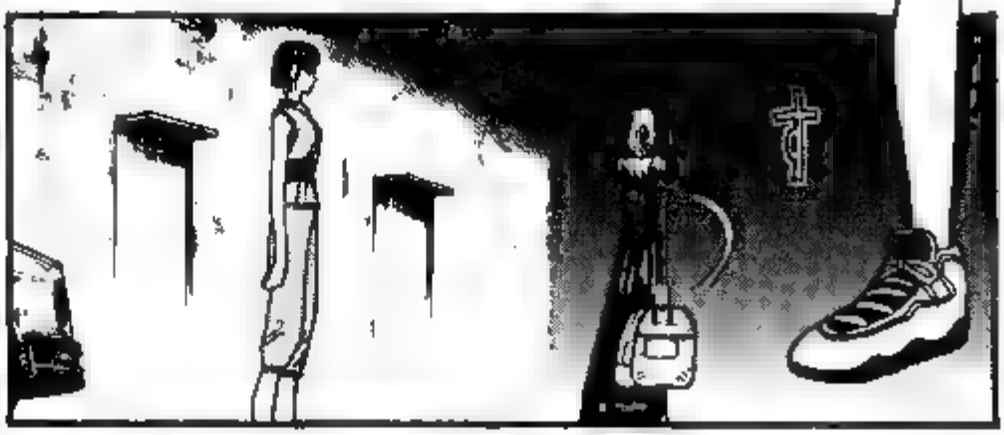


PHEW! A WHOLE DAY AND NIGHT RATTLING AROUND IN THIS BEAT-UP OLD CAR!

YEAH, YEAH.
BESIDES, THIS IS A FIRST-CLASS CAR THAT WAS LENT TO US SPECIALLY JUST SO WE COULD LOOK FOR MY DAD.

MING-HAI, YOU'VE SPENT NEARLY TEN YEARS IN CHINA.
ARE YOU STILL NOT USED TO HOW WE THINK OF DISTANCE?

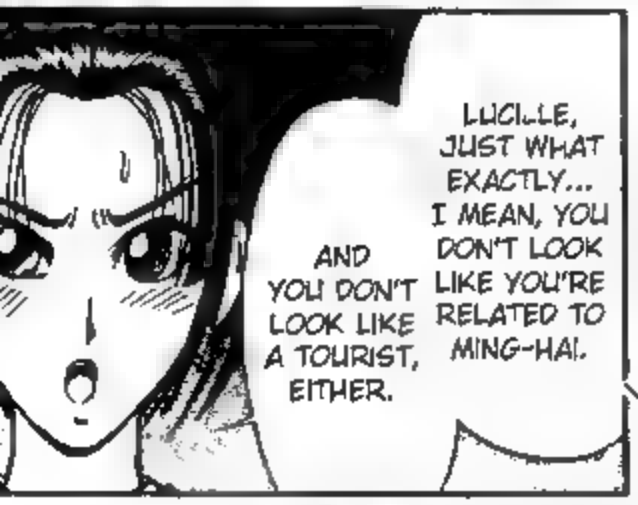

YEAH, OKAY... I'M GONNA GO DO SOME STRETCHES. BODY'S ALL STIFF.
WE'LL REST HERE FOR A FEW HOURS. WE LEAVE EARLY TO-MORROW MORNING.

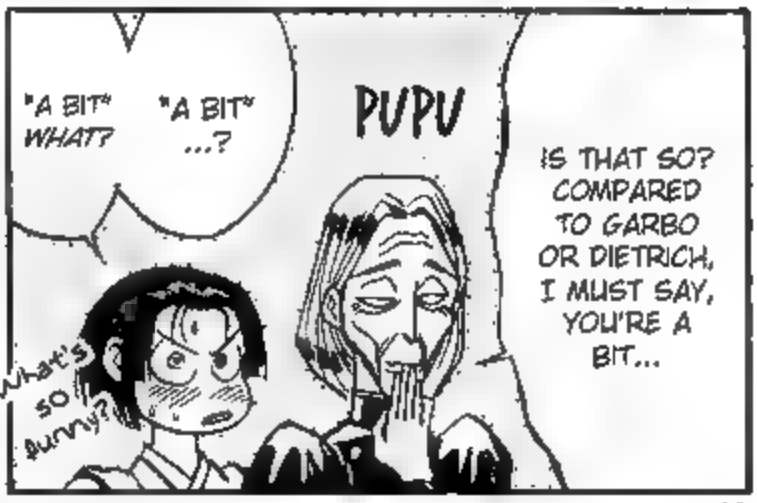


I'M NOT TOO GOOD WITH THIS WOMAN ...
OKAY, UM... LUCILLE, THEN.
LU-CILLE.
.....

U-UM, YOU KNOW ...

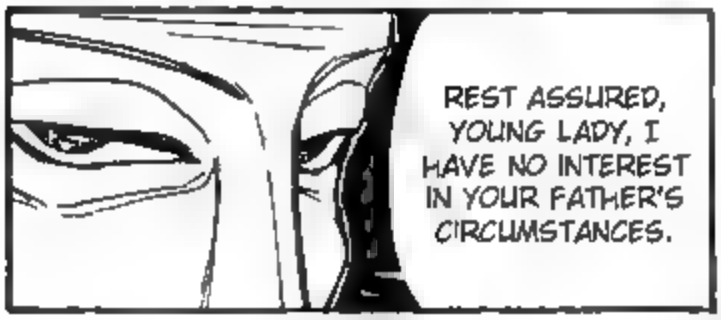
WHY...? SHE'S SO THIN AND WRINKLY, BUT SHE'S JUST AS INTENSE AS DAD...
IT'S MING-XIA... JUST MING-XIA. I'M AN ACTOR IN HONG KONG.
WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION, YOUNG LADY?


AND YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A TOURIST, EITHER.
LUCILLE, JUST WHAT EXACTLY... I MEAN, YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE RELATED TO MING-HAI.


"A BIT" WHAT?
"A BIT" ...?
PUPU
What's so funny?
IS THAT SO? COMPARED TO GARBO OR DIETRICH, I MUST SAY, YOU'RE A BIT...

11

WELL, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
YOU DON'T WISH FOR ME TO ACCOMPANY YOU?


REST ASSURED, YOUNG LADY, I HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOUR FATHER'S CIRCUMSTANCES.

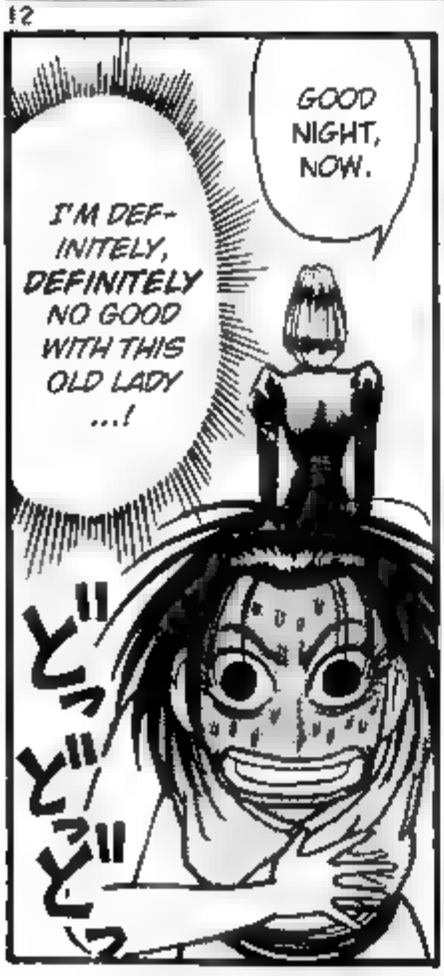
AND MY DAD WROTE MING-HAI A LETTER SAYING HE WOULD BE THERE.
WE'RE GOING TO THE VILLAGE WHERE MY DAD WAS BORN, BECAUSE HE CAME DOWN WITH ZONAPHA SYNDROME AND THEN DISAPPEARED.

IT SO HAPPENS THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS ONCE PASSED THROUGH THE VILLAGE WHERE YOUR FATHER WAS BORN... THAT IS ALL.
NARUMI AND I ARE FOLLOWING CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.
HUH?

THOSE PEOPLE ARE...
AND THOSE PEOPLE ARE...?

FOR THE MOMENT, NARUMI IS OCCUPIED WITH THAT. BUT HE WILL SOON REMEMBER HIS MISSION.
THEN— YOU AND MING-HAI AREN'T GOING THERE TO BRING BACK MY DAD?

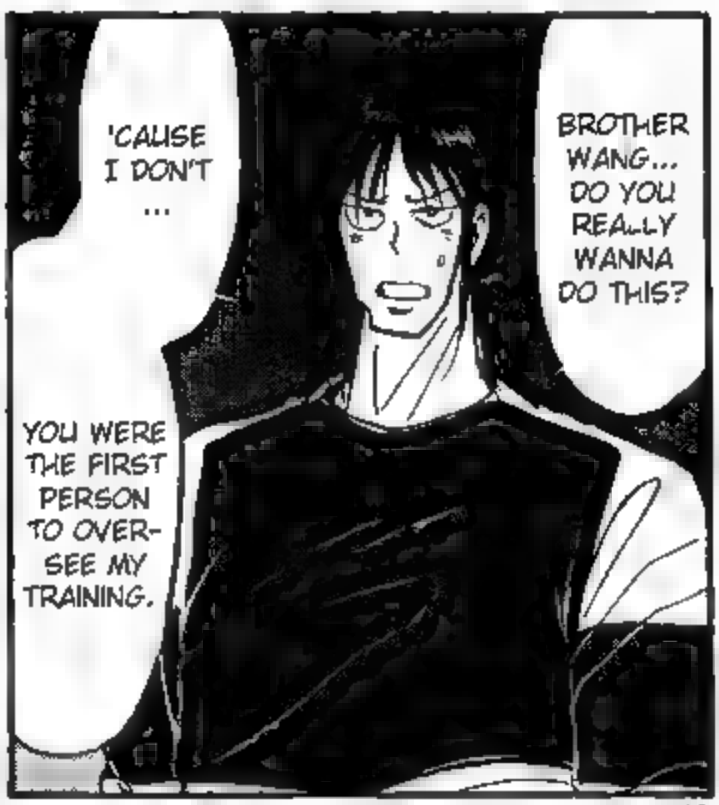
12


GOOD NIGHT, NOW.
I'M DEF-INITELY, DEFINITELY NO GOOD WITH THIS OLD LADY ...!
どっ
どっ
どっ

SOMETHING YOU, YOUNG LADY, HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH.
ヒッ

ゴオオオオ

LIKE, EVERYONE SAYS, YOU'RE A GENIUS AT MARTIAL ARTS. I CAN'T BEAT YOU.
YOU'VE LOOKED AFTER ME EVER SINCE THEN...


'CAUSE I DON'T ...
YOU WERE THE FIRST PERSON TO OVER-SEE MY TRAINING.
BROTHER WANG... DO YOU REALLY WANNA DO THIS?

13

BRO-THER ...
.....

THE ONE MASTER RECOGNIZES AS A GENIUS IS YOU, MING-HAI! AND IN THEIR HEARTS, EVERYONE AGREES!
I KNOW THAT VERY WELL!

MASTER'S NEVER THOUGHT OF ME AS A GENIUS. OR AS ANYTHING AT ALL.
HUH?
NO ...

AND NOW YOU JUST COME WALTZING BACK LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED! HAVE YOU GIVEN ONE THOUGHT TO WHAT YOU DID TO MASTER?!
I'M SURE YOU SPARED NO EXPENSE GETTING YOURSELF CURED BACK THERE!
DESPITE ALL THE HOPES MASTER HAD FOR YOU, YOU JUST GAVE HIM YOUR SICKNESS AND WENT BACK TO JAPAN!
AND DESPITE THAT ...!

WHAT IS IT?! WHAT WERE YOU ABOUT TO SAY?!
...MASTER WROTE THAT LETTER TO ME ALONE... I CAN'T SAY IT...!
NARUMI... I WILL TELL ONLY YOU...
BROTHER WANG... OUR MASTER WAS THE ONE WHO WAS...

I'LL GIVE YOU A BEATING AS YOUR SENIOR PUPIL!!
LET'S FIGHT, THEN!
NOTHING... IT'S LIKE YOU SAID, BROTHER WANG...

ガガガ
THAT'S ...
GO AHEAD, THEN.
I WON'T ...
FIGHT BACK ...
EXACTLY THE ATTITUDE I HATE!!

THEN THE HEAVENS WILL JUDGE YOU AND GRANT YOU VICTORY!!
IF BY SOME CHANCE YOU ARE INNOCENT ...
COME ON AND FIGHT, MING-HAI!

ドカ
ミシェウウ

THE HEAVENS DO NOT PASS JUDGMENT ON US.
BROTHER WANG...
H-HE... STOPPED THE SMASHING FIST I PUT MY WHOLE BODY INTO?!

WHA... WHAT ...?
IF THE HEAVENS WOULD PUNISH ME FOR MAKING OUR MASTER SICK...
WHO DELIBERATELY INFECT KIDS WITH ZONAPHA SYNDROME?
THEN WHY HAVE THEY DONE NOTHING TO THE MONSTERS ...

LET'S GO, BROTHER. I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING IMPORTANT ...
TCH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ゴゴゴ
ドクン
THAT'S DAD'S VILLAGE!
LOOK! THERE IT IS!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WHAT...
NO...
I KNOW THIS PLACE!
I...
THESE MEMORIES AREN'T MINE!!
NO... THESE...

translation by funnjraba tumblr com

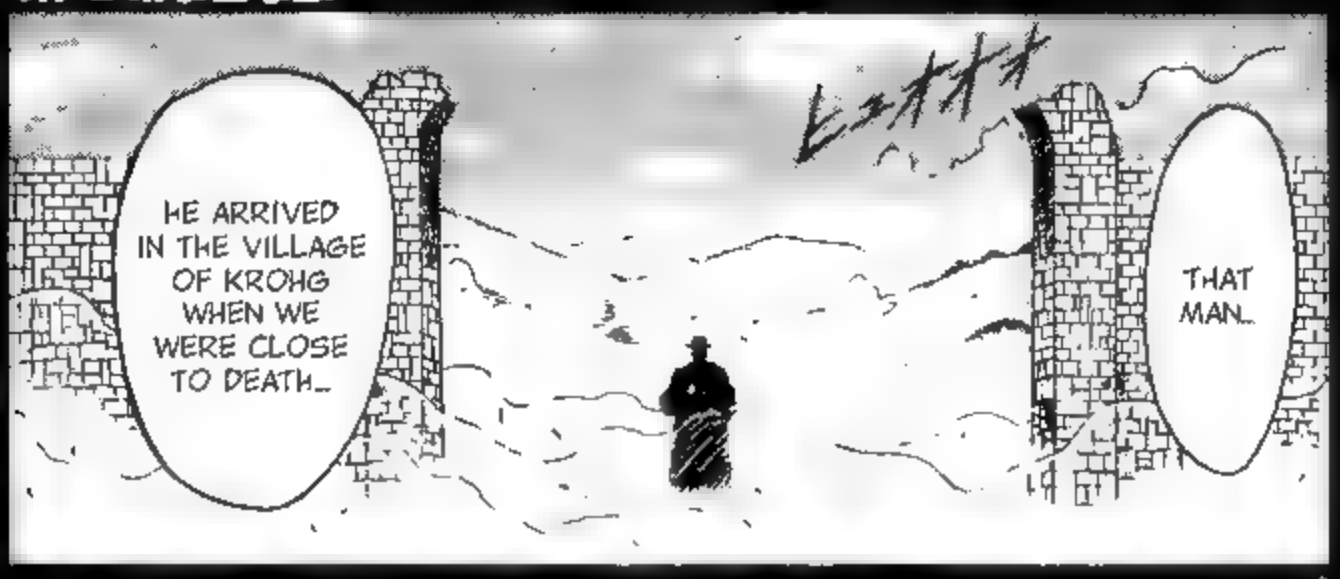
pg 9 In the original, China Hou speaks in broken Japanese that I felt did not need to be recreated in English

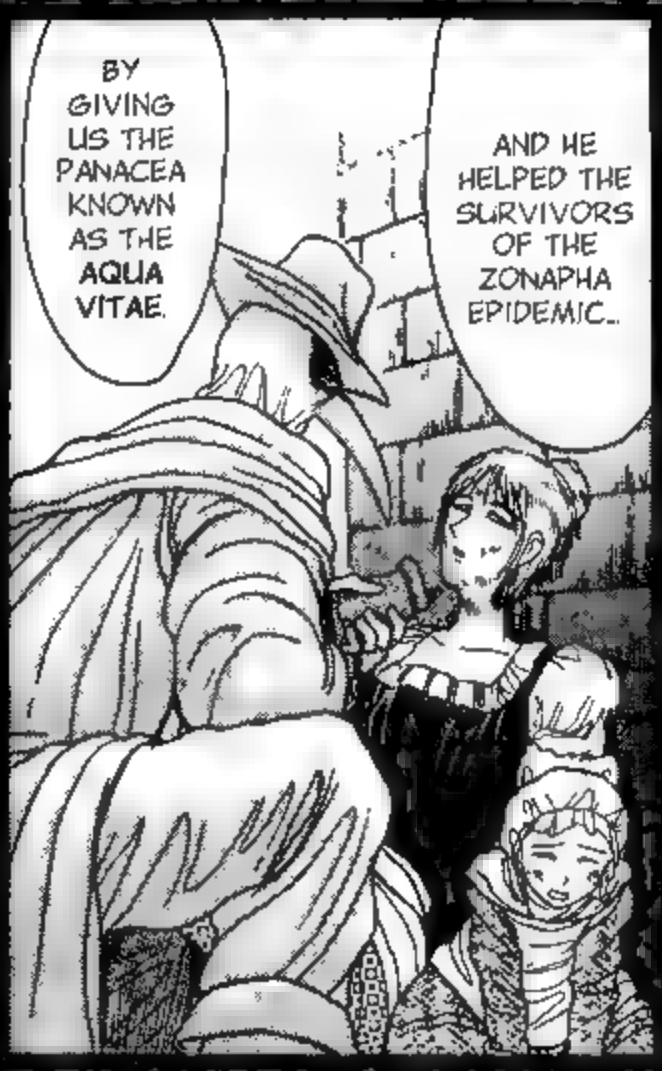
pg 14 Besides omitting her family name, Ming-Xia uses katakana (ミンシャ) instead of hanzi (明霞) in her given name

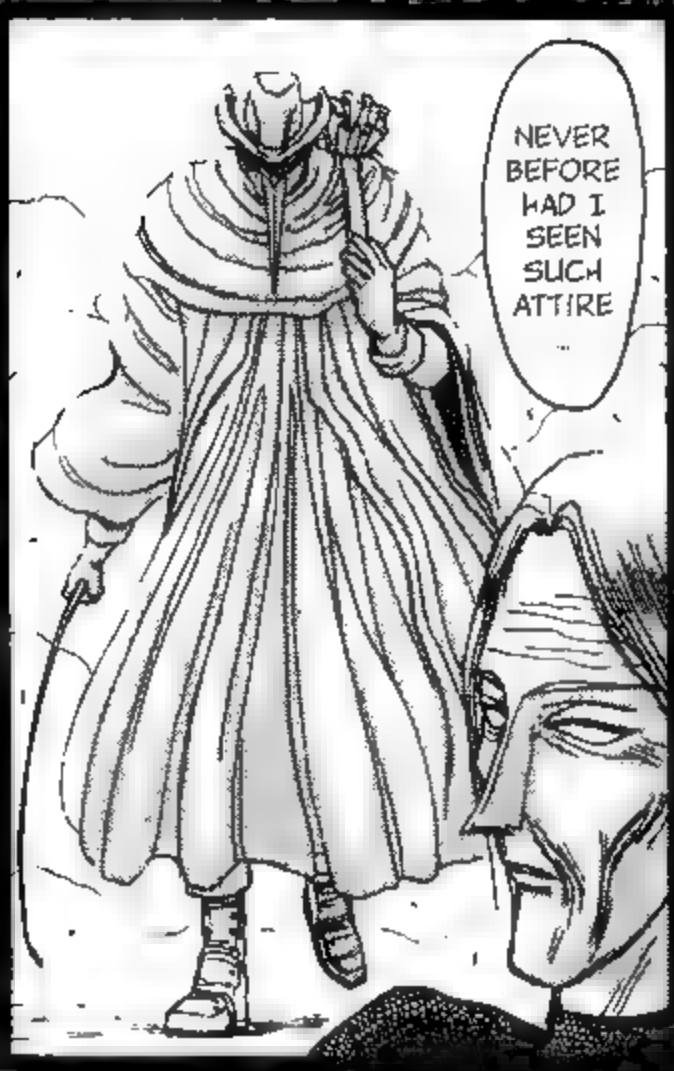
Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves

第4幕記憶


ヒュオオオ
HE ARRIVED IN THE VILLAGE OF KROHG WHEN WE WERE CLOSE TO DEATH...
THAT MAN...


BY GIVING US THE PANACEA KNOWN AS THE AQUA VITAE.
AND HE HELPED THE SURVIVORS OF THE ZONAPHA EPIDEMIC...

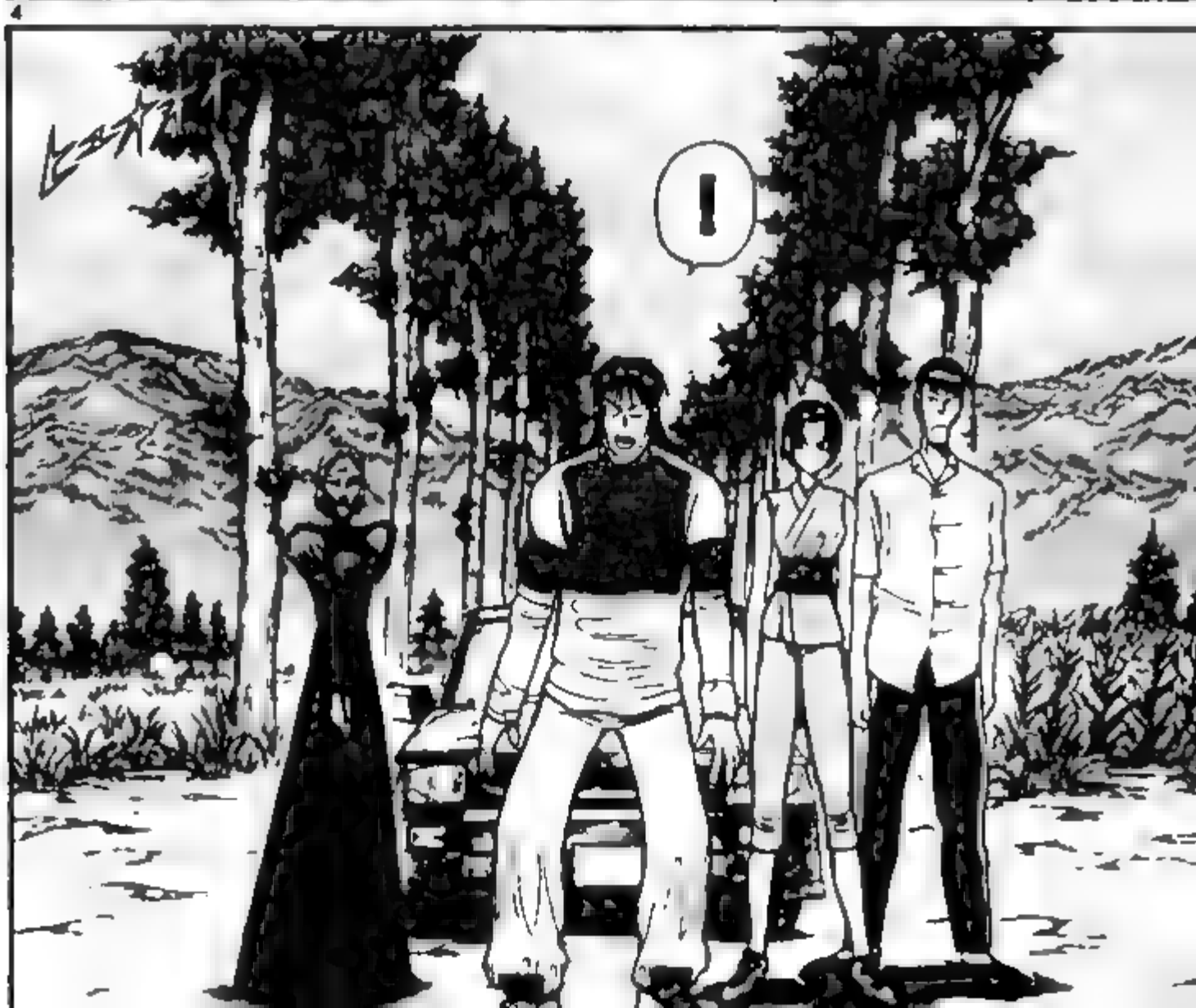

NEVER BEFORE HAD I SEEN SUCH ATTIRE...

BUT THEN WHY—
THIS IS SOMETHING FROM LUCILLE'S MEMORIES... BUT...
THAT'S RIGHT... LUCILLE TOLD ME ABOUT THIS MAN...

Act 4
Memories

ANGELINA ...!
A GIRL? SHE MUST BE LUCILLE'S DAUGHTER ...
THAT'S LUCILLE ...
SHE'S A YOUNG WOMAN, BUT...!
TH-THANK YOU...
NO! I DON'T REMEMBER SAYING ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
I WAS BORN IN CHINA TO A CLAN OF STREET PERFORMERS. PUPPETEERS.
MY NAME IS...
NO!
WHO ARE YOU, SIR?
HOW AM I REMEMBERING SOMETHING FROM SO LONG AGO AS IF IT'S REAL?!
I'M KATOU NARUMI. I'M A MODERN-DAY HUMAN FROM THE 21ST CENTURY.

MY NAME IS NA-RUMI!
BAI YIN.


!

BAI YIN ...
SHIRO-GANE ...
WHAT IS IT, MING-HAI? THE CLOSER WE GET TO THE VILLAGE, THE WORSE YOUR EXPRESSION GETS. YOU'VE BEEN OUT OF IT FOR A WHOLE MINUTE NOW.
ヒュウウ
ANOTHER FRAGMENT OF A MEMORY?
YOU'RE... LUCILLE, AREN'T YOU?
? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OWOW OWOW!
HOW ABOUT LOOKING AT THE VILLAGE INSTEAD, MING-HAI?! WE'RE HERE.
THE VILL-AGE ...?
ヒュウウウ

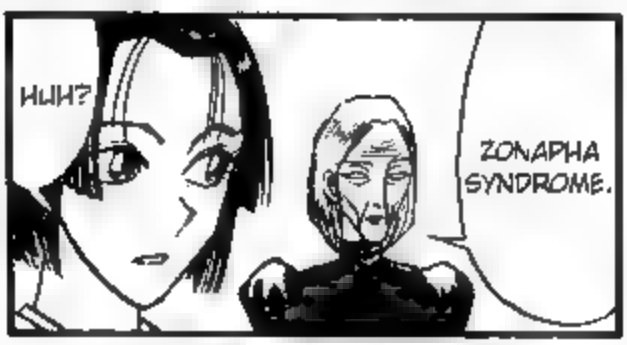
ゴオオオ

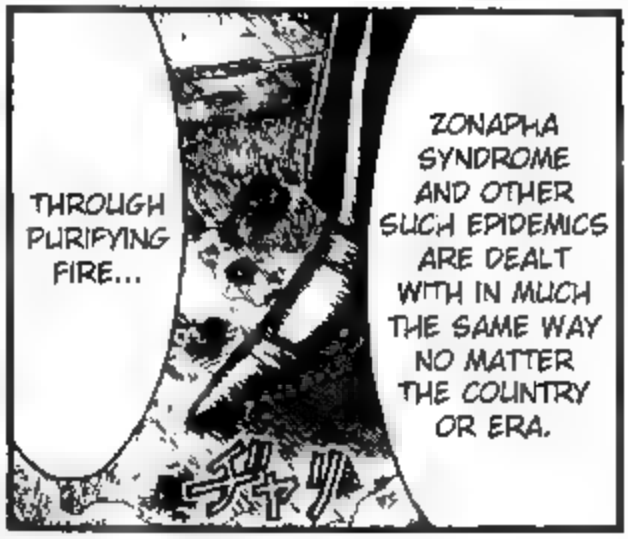
MY DAD ONLY TOLD ME THE LOCATION... I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...
WAS THERE A FIRE? IT'S BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED ...

6

オオオ

ヒョオオ
WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME, YOUNG LADY?
BUT THEN... WHERE COULD DAD...?


HUH?
ZONAPHA SYNDROME.


THROUGH PURIFYING FIRE...
ZONAPHA SYNDROME AND OTHER SUCH EPIDEMICS ARE DEALT WITH IN MUCH THE SAME WAY NO MATTER THE COUNTRY OR ERA.
ゴォリ

THERE'S A CLIFF OVER THAT WAY, BROTHER WANG. YOU'D BETTER BE CAREFUL.
ANYWAY, WE HAVE TO LOOK FOR HIM! WANG, YOU GO THAT WAY.
RIGHT.
AH... WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT ...?
HUH?
MING-HAI... THIS ISN'T YOUR FIRST TIME HERE, THEN?
.....
コオオオ
.....
7
YES ...
!
WHAT A WEIRDO. LET'S GO.

AH...
EX-CUSE ME.
YES... MY SON...
ER... DID SOME-BODY DIE?
DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF. AT MY AGE, NOTHING SURPRISES ME ANY-MORE.
SORRY TO STARTLE YOU.
FIFTY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THEN...
ZONAPHA... WAS THE NAME OF THE ILLNESS THAT TOOK HIM.
6
WHEN I RETURNED, THE ILLNESS HAD KILLED EVERYONE SAVE FOR A FEW LUCKY PEOPLE, INCLUDING AN ORPHANED BABY...
AT THAT TIME, I HAD LEFT THE VILLAGE TO WORK...
ZONAPHA SYNDROME ...

THEN, MASTER WAS ONE OF THE SURVIVORS FROM BACK THEN.
THEN, DAD MIGHT HAVE BEEN INFECTED WHEN HE WAS...
!
I SEE...
AFTER THAT, THE MILITIAMEN ARRIVED AND SET FIRE TO THE HOUSES...
BY THE WAY, WHAT IS YOUR REASON FOR COMING OUT TO SUCH A REMOTE PLACE?
WE'RE LOOKING FOR MY FATHER... HE ALSO HAS ZONAPHA SYNDROME.
ばっ
LIANG... I DON'T KNOW THE NAME.
AH, RIGHT! DAD TOLD ME HE WAS ADOPTED AT A YOUNG AGE AND TOOK A NEW NAME. HIS ORIGINAL ONE WAS ...
HE'S CALLED LIANG JIAN-FENG.
YOUR FATHER WAS BORN IN THIS VILLAGE, THEN. WHAT IS HIS NAME?
RIGHT ...
IT WAS BAI JIAN-FENG.

I KNOW THEM. THE BABY WAS FROM THEIR FAMILY. HE WAS YOUR FATHER, THEN.
AH, YES. THE BAI CLAN.
MY NAME IS.... BAI YIN.
DID YOU SAY... BAI?

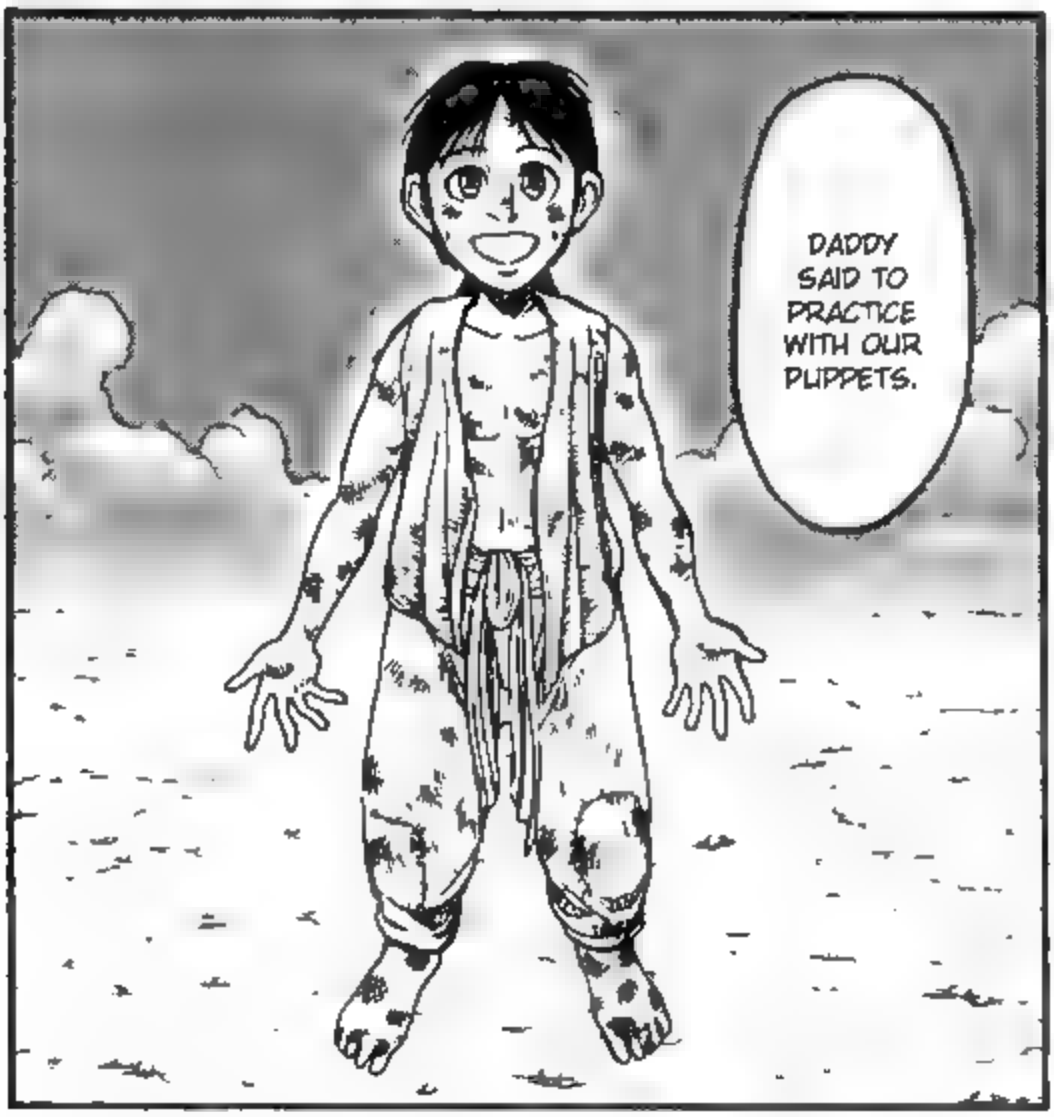
IT'S A SHAME. THAT FAMILY WAS VERY WELL KNOWN FOR THEIR STREET PERFORMING ACTS.
THEIR HOUSE WAS OVER THERE.
... DAD ...

10

"THEN, THE WANDERING ALCHEMIST WHO SAVED LUCILLE AND THE OTHERS IN KROHG, AND CREATED THE SHIROGANE...!!"
MASTER'S ANCESTORS WERE THE PUPPETEERS OF THE BAI FAMILY?!
!?

THEY WERE KUILEI HU... PUPPETRY.
BY ANY CHANCE ...
OLD MAN! WERE THOSE ACTS ...

オオオ
BAI YIN WAS BORN HERE IN THIS VILLAGE?!

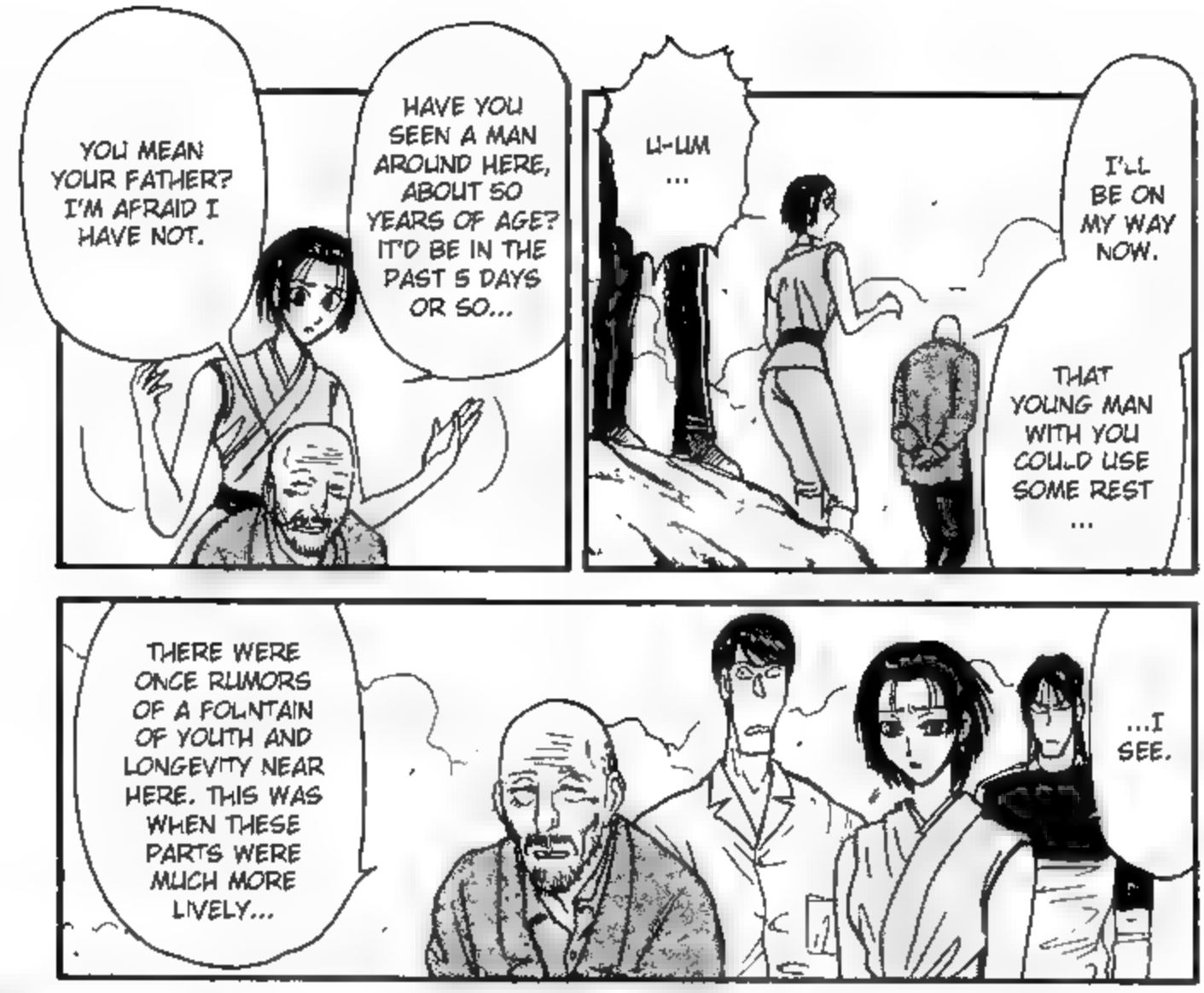

DADDY SAID TO PRACTICE WITH OUR PUPPETS.

YIN-NIICHAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

AHAHA! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, YIN-NIICHAN?
YIN? Y'MEAN ME?

LOOKS LIKE OUR NAMES FIT US! GOLD BEATS SILVER AND JIN BEATS YIN!
A PAIR OF BROTHERS ...?
BAI YIN AND BAI JIN ...
NO ONE ELSE SAW THAT? I'M THE ONLY ONE?!
THAT MEANS ...
YOU ARE SO WEIRD.
WHAT, AGAIN ?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MING-HAI?
WHA ...
WH...
ガッ
ガッ

THE DENSEST PART OF BAI YIN IN THE AQUA VITAE IS IN MY BODY...
LUCILLE SAID THAT WAS BECAUSE...
THAT VISION ...
I'M SEEING BAI YIN'S MEMORIES.


HAVE YOU SEEN A MAN AROUND HERE, ABOUT 50 YEARS OF AGE? IT'D BE IN THE PAST 5 DAYS OR SO...
YOU MEAN YOUR FATHER? I'M AFRAID I HAVE NOT.
I'LL BE ON MY WAY NOW.
U-UM ...
THAT YOUNG MAN WITH YOU COULD USE SOME REST ...

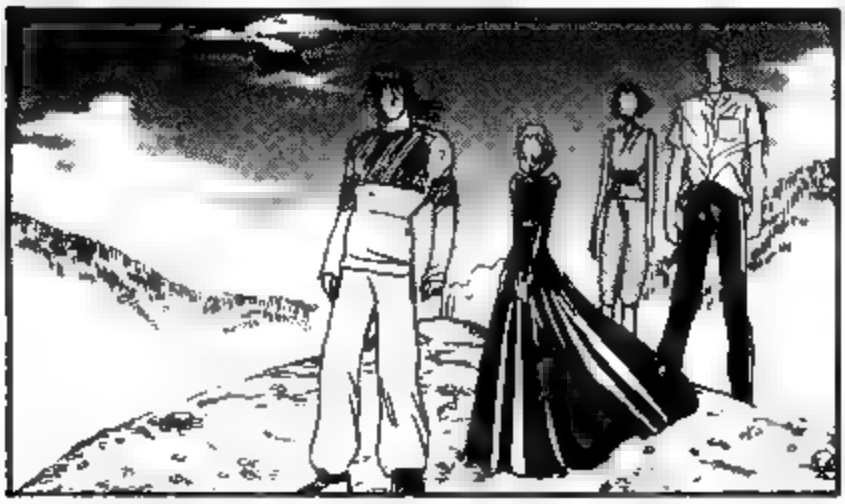
THERE WERE ONCE RUMORS OF A FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH AND LONGEVITY NEAR HERE. THIS WAS WHEN THESE PARTS WERE MUCH MORE LIVELY...
...I SEE.

SUPPOSEDLY, SOMEWHERE ON THAT MOUNTAIN WAS A SPRING FROM WHICH FLOWED AN ELIXIR OF ETERNAL YOUTH.

A FOUN-TAIN OF YOUTH...?

SOMETHING LIKE THE LEGENDARY FOUNTAIN OF BEAUTY FROM THE TIMES OF EMPEROR GUANG-WU...
IT'S A LOCAL LEGEND FROM 150 YEARS AGO.

AH, YES, THAT'S RIGHT... THE KEEPERS OF THE KEY TO THAT GATE...
AT LAST A LOCKED GATE WAS INSTALLED AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN.
BY THE MONSTER THAT GUARDED THE SPRING, AND NO ONE EVER FOUND IT.
HOWEVER, ALL WHO SOUGHT IT WERE DRIVEN AWAY...



WERE THE BAI FAMILY...

NO, I'LL COME TOO.
I'M GOING THERE! WANG, YOU CAN STAY HERE IF YOU WANT.

THERE'S NO OTHER POSSI-BILITY.
...DAD DEFINITELY WENT UP THAT MOUNTAIN.

BUT THE NAME OF THAT MAN, AND THIS FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH.
WHAT I AM SEEKING IS NOT YOUR MASTER...

I'M START-ING TO UNDER-STAND.
LU-CILLE ...
NARUMI... THIS IS THE VILLAGE IN WHICH THAT MAN WAS BORN, IS IT NOT?

A FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH PROTECTED BY A MONSTER ...
THERE MAY BE SOME SECRETS HIDDEN HERE. I WILL GO AS WELL.
BUT IT SEEMS OUR GOALS HAVE SOME RELATION. SINCE THE AUTOMATA HAVE COME HERE TWICE ...
COULD THERE BE SOME BIG SECRET ABOUT THE SHIROGANE THERE...?
MAS-TER...
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING THERE...

THIS MOUNTAIN IS HUGE ...!
AH, JEEZ, WHERE IS THAT SPRING ANYWAY?
HOO
HOO

MISS, WE SHOULD SPLIT UP TO CONDUCT OUR SEARCH.
Y-YEAH, I GUESS.
YOUTH TRULY IS WASTED ON THE YOUNG. THIS IS JUST RIGHT FOR A STROLL.
THIS LADY'S A FREAKIN' MONSTER!
HEY, I'M HERE TO LOOK TOO!
Not sure about the old lady, but...
NA-RUMI!
HOWEVER, I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE OUT ANYONE WE CAN'T TRUST...
THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE.
WHAT IS IT ...
WHAT?!
THEN IT BECOMES CLEAR WHY THE AUTOMATA HAVE COME HERE TWICE.
WH-WHAT'S THAT?!
NARUMI, IF THIS SPRING IS A SOURCE OF AQUA VITAE...

HEY, MING-HAI! WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT BACK THERE–
I'M NOT SURE, BUT TAKE CARE.
THEN... THIS PRESENCE IS A PUPPET ...?

OH, SHUT UP!
OH? YOUR VOICE SEEMS A BIT SHAKY.

I-IS IT THE MONS-TER ?!
HUH ?!
MISS!
THERE'S SOME-THING HERE!

SHUT UP, MING-HAI! DON'T GIVE ME ORDERS!
BROTHER WANG, YOU TAKE CARE OF THE RIGHT.

KYA!
NU!
!

IT'S THE MON-STER!

translation by funmuraba tumblr com

A few notes on names in this chapter:
Previous scanlators were working with the French publication which changed the names of Lucille's daughter and village to Angélique and Kerroic. I've gone back to the original アンシェリーナ (Angelina) and クローゲ, which I've romanized as Krohg for now

I gave Master Liang's name incorrectly previously it is Liáng Jiànfēng (梁剑峰)

Also. I somehow missed that Bai is the brothers' surname and not a shared part of their given names, so Bai Jin and Bai Yin should be unhyphenated

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text. and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is we come to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves

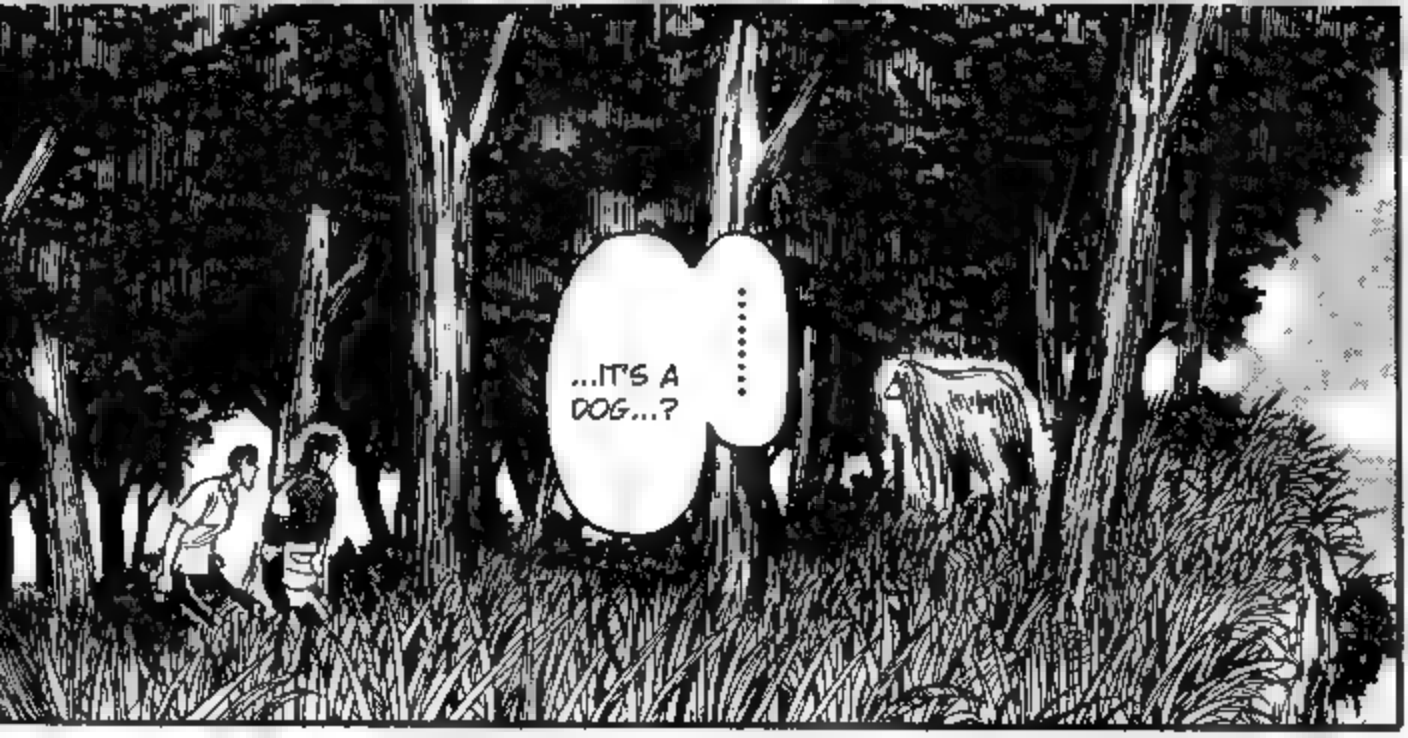
Act 5
The Pale Pink Cascade

APPARENTLY THIS IS THE MONSTER OF WHICH WE HEARD.
BE CARE-FUL!
I-IT'S FAST!

AHH!
LUCILLE! THIS THING IS AIMING AT MING-XIA AND BROTHER WANG!
MI... MING-HAI!

STOP!
I CAN DEAL WITH THIS MONS-TER!
WHA... WHAT...
SO IT WOULD SEEM.
HMPH ...
HYUUUU!
I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO HELPING IT...

KUH ...
MISS MING-XIAAA!
MING-HAI... YOUR ARM...
I'LL TAKE IT OUT!
GET DOWN, BRO-THER.
.....!


.....
...IT'S A DOG...?

SILVER EYES ...
IT'S GOTTA BE...
AND SILVER FUR, TOO...

STRANGE... IT SUDDENLY STOPPED ATTACKING.

lick

THIS DOG IS...
トコ
トコ

H-HEY.
PANT PANT PANT
.....

WHAT ABOUT MISS MING-XIA?!
WHA... ARE YOU JOKING ?!

LOOKS LIKE IT WANTS US TO FOLLOW.
WHAT THE...

...LUCILLE'S WITH HER. SHE'LL BE FINE.
.....
ヒュヒュ!!

8

HUH ?!

OH, AND PILOT A JET, TOO...
SHE CAN HANDLE HEAVY ARTILLERY AND A SABER.
...AND JUST WHAT EXACTLY CAN THAT TROUBLESOME OLD WOMAN DO FOR HER?

THAT'S RIDICULOUS!!
WHAT WE NEED TO FOCUS ON IS THAT DOG. IT SEEMS TO KNOW WHERE MASTER IS.
SHE'LL DEAL WITH THINGS SOMEHOW.
THAT OLD LADY CAN DO PLENTY.
.....
MASTER MIGHT BE THERE ...?
HEY!
WELL, THEN, I'LL GO MAKE SURE. ALONE.
TCH.
9
THAT WAS QUITE A FALL.
THAT WAS SO NOT NECESSARY!
OW, OW, OW!

OHO, IS THAT SO.
YOUR CLOTHING AT LEAST WOULD HAVE REGRETTED DOING SO.

IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY?! I COULD'VE HANDLED THAT MONSTER JUST FINE!

DO BE QUIET.
Y-Y-Y-YOUR ARM... LUCI... AHHH !!
!!

AHHH!

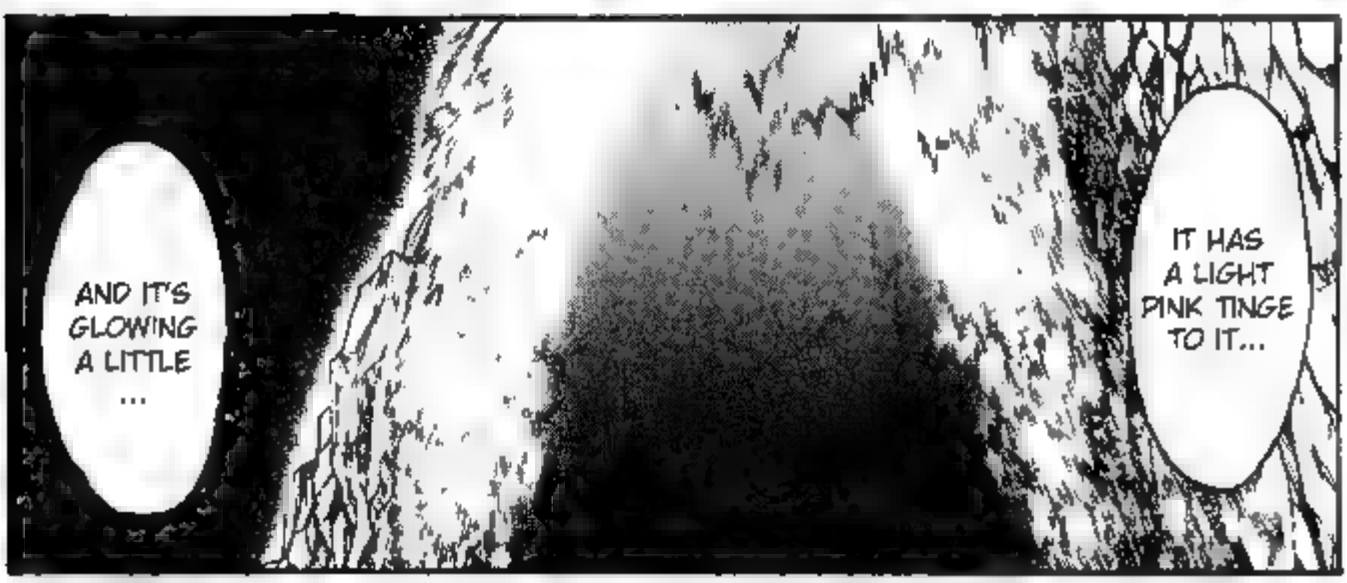
HMPH, WHAT ARE YOU EVEN...

YOU WOULD BE DEAD BY NOW.
GAH!
WH-WHEN DID THAT ...

IT WILL HEAL JUST FINE.
BUT WITH THIS ...
WELL, I'M GETTING ON IN YEARS.
WEAR AND TEAR BEGINS TO CATCH UP WITH ONE.
YOU TRULY HAVE NO DISCIPLINE! WHAT A TROUBLESOME YOUNG GIRL YOU ARE!
NOW, LET'S RETURN TO THE MOUNTAIN-TOP.

IT FLOWS DOWN FROM UP THERE AND GETS SUCKED INTO THIS HOLE.
IT'S A SMALL WATER-FALL...

LOOKS LIKE A PRETTY DEEP CREVICE.
YOU THINK THE DOG WANTED TO SHOW THIS TO US?
BROTHER... DOES SOMETHING SEEM STRANGE ABOUT THIS WATER?
HM?


IT HAS A LIGHT PINK TINGE TO IT...
AND IT'S GLOWING A LITTLE ...

I DON'T REALLY NOTICE ANYTHING ...
IS THIS THE FAMOUS SPRING THAT MASTER WAS HEADED FOR..?
HM?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S HEADED FURTHER UP.

HEY, MING-HAI.
WHAT IS IT, BRO-THER?

JUST WHAT'S UP THERE?

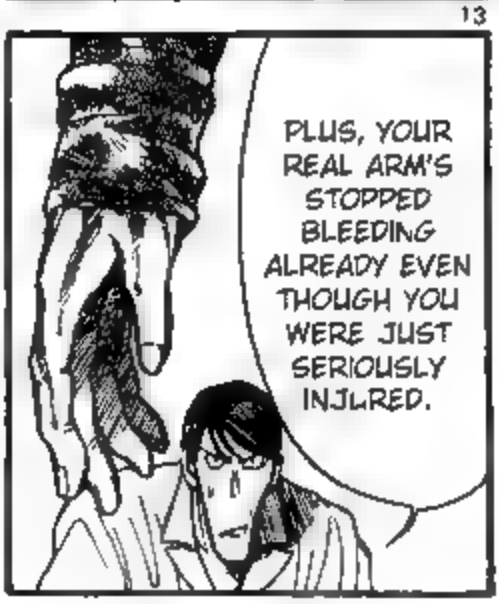
THAT ARM... HOW EXACTLY DID YOU...
WERE YOU IN AN ACCIDENT OR...

MM... YEAH, THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT.

13

BRO-THER ...
WHY WERE YOU THE ONLY ONE MASTER LEFT A LETTER FOR?

I THOUGHT SOMETHING WAS DIFFERENT AS SOON AS I SAW YOU THREE DAYS AGO.
MING-HAI, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?


PLUS, YOUR REAL ARM'S STOPPED BLEEDING ALREADY EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE JUST SERIOUSLY INJURED.

THE SPECIAL ONE?
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS ...

!
BROTHER WANG... I...
WOOF

GOOD DOG.
ｻﾜﾜ
15
M...
MAS-
TER!!

.....
SO...
YOU HAVE COME.
COME ON, LET'S GO HOME! MISS MING-XIA IS ON HER WAY HERE TOO.
WE WERE WORRIED!
HOW COULD WE NOT COME?!
18
WAHAHAHAHA.
MASTER!
M-MASTER, ARE YOU OKAY?
HHEE
HUHH
!
MING-XIA IS HERE TOO... I SEE...

MING-HAI, YOU BASTARD! YOU GAVE HIM THIS DISEASE! HOW DARE YOU?!
THIS IS PRETTY FUNNY, MASTER! YOU USED TO BE SO SCARY, AND NOW HERE YOU ARE, TOTALLY WORN OUT!
AHAHAHAHA!
おっほっほ
HA!

HUH?
I'M A LITTLE BETTER NOW.
THANK YOU, MING-HAI.

17

FOR FIFTY... THEN, MASTER ...!
WANG... THIS DISEASE HAS SLEPT WITHIN ME...
FOR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS...

ZONAPHA SYNDROME IS A STRANGE ILLNESS... ITS ATTACKS OF DYSPNEA CAN BE HALTED ONLY BY THE LAUGHTER OF OTHERS...
MASTER ...!

PER-
HAPS
...
BUT
...
THE DISEASE HAS STAYED WITHIN ME FOR SO MANY YEARS AS A PUNISHMENT FROM THE HEAVENS...
THAT'S RIGHT, WANG.
IT WAS NOT MING-HAI WHO INFECTED ME WITH ZONAPHA SYNDROME.
TWO BRO-THERS.
FOR MY ANCESTORS, WHO CREATED SOMETHING THAT SHOULD NOT EXIST IN THIS WORLD. THE ANCESTORS OF THE BAI FAMILY...
MAS-TER...
A... PUNISH-MENT? PUNISH-MENT FOR WHAT?

THE WATER OF LIFE.
IT HEALS ANY ILLNESS.
TO HUMANS IT GRANTS IMMOR-TALITY... TO DOLLS, A FALSE LIFE.

translation by funnjraba tumblr com

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text. and to the
anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill
is welcome to take over at any time or
to redo chapters I have already done
if they are below the quality that
this series deserves

Act 6
Meeting

カバア
I'D TOLD MASTER EVERYTHING.
ABOUT HOW THE AQUA VITAE HAD MADE ME INTO AN IMMORTAL SHIROGANE BATTLING THE AUTOMATA.
BE-FORE I REAL-IZED IT...

ENOUGH ALREADY !!
AND ABOUT THE VISIONS I'D STARTED TO SEE SINCE COMING TO CHINA.

2

DO YOU REALLY EXPECT MASTER AND ME TO BELIEVE THAT NON-SENSE?

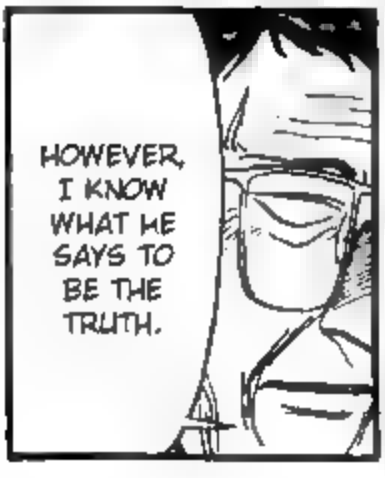
... AH.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT, MING-HAI?! ENOUGH BABBLING!

HELL, I BARELY BELIEVE ME.
THEY WON'T BELIEVE ME...
...THAT'S RIGHT...
WHY DID I GO OFF LIKE THAT ...?
YOU'VE HAD A HARD TIME...
I SEE.
MING-HAI...
NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE ME...
3
!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE BOTHERED WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS WHEN YOU'RE SICK LIKE THIS...

I'M SORRY, MASTER!
I'VE JUST BEEN TALKING ABOUT MYSELF !!


HOWEVER, I KNOW WHAT HE SAYS TO BE THE TRUTH.

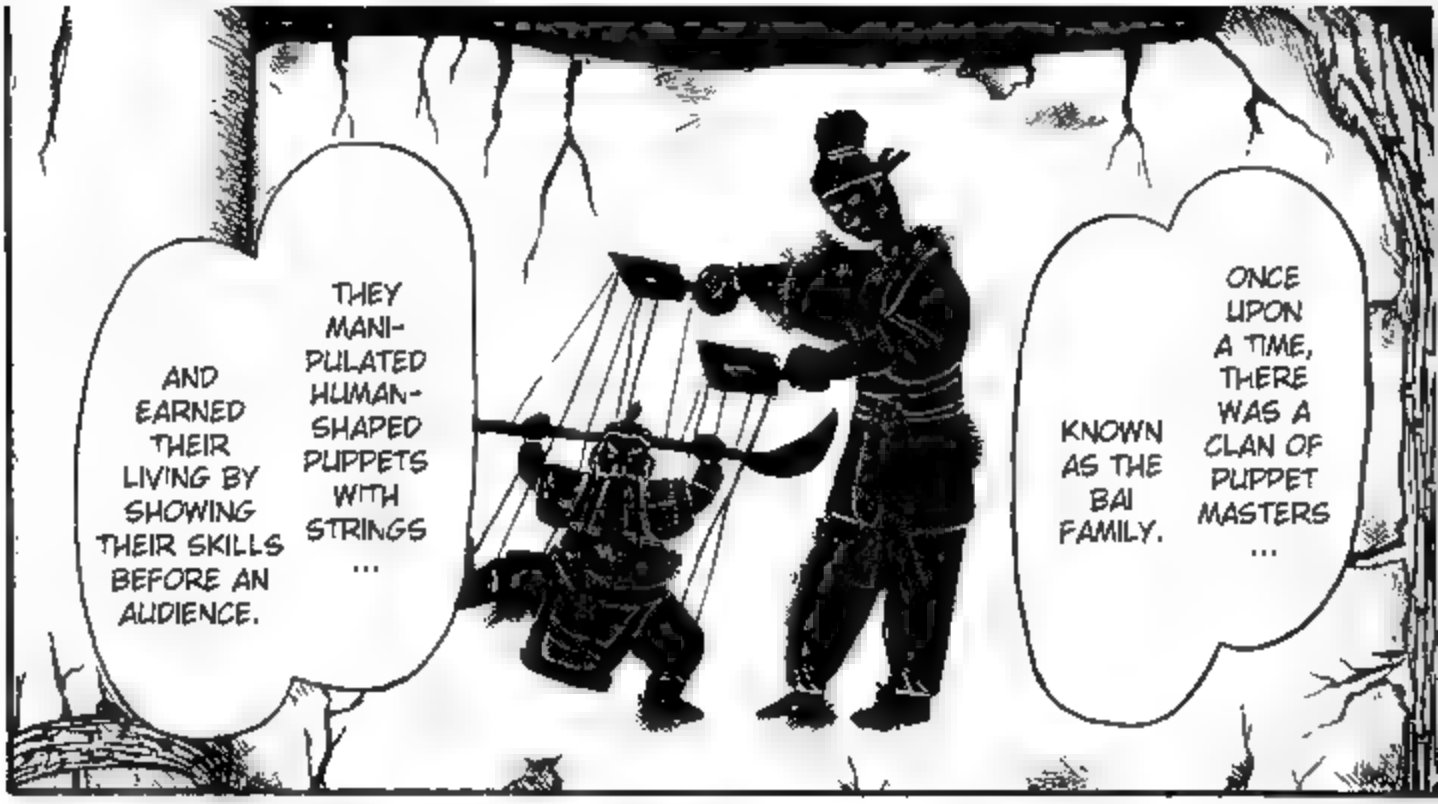
YOU CAN HARDLY BE EXPECTED TO BELIEVE HIM, WANG.
MASTER! DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE WHAT HE'S SAYING?!

THEN THERE IS MORE THAT I MUST TELL YOU, MING-HAI.
IF YOUR CIRCUM-STANCES ARE AS YOU TELL ME...
OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY...

THIS IS A STORY ...
THE STORY OF THE SINS COMMITTED BY THE ANCESTORS OF THE BAI FAMILY.

WHAT'S THAT ...?

MORE THAN 200 YEARS AGO.
LISTEN WELL. THIS IS A TALE THAT BEGINS ...


ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A CLAN OF PUPPET MASTERS ...
KNOWN AS THE BAI FAMILY.
THEY MANI-PULATED HUMAN-SHAPED PUPPETS WITH STRINGS ...
AND EARNED THEIR LIVING BY SHOWING THEIR SKILLS BEFORE AN AUDIENCE.

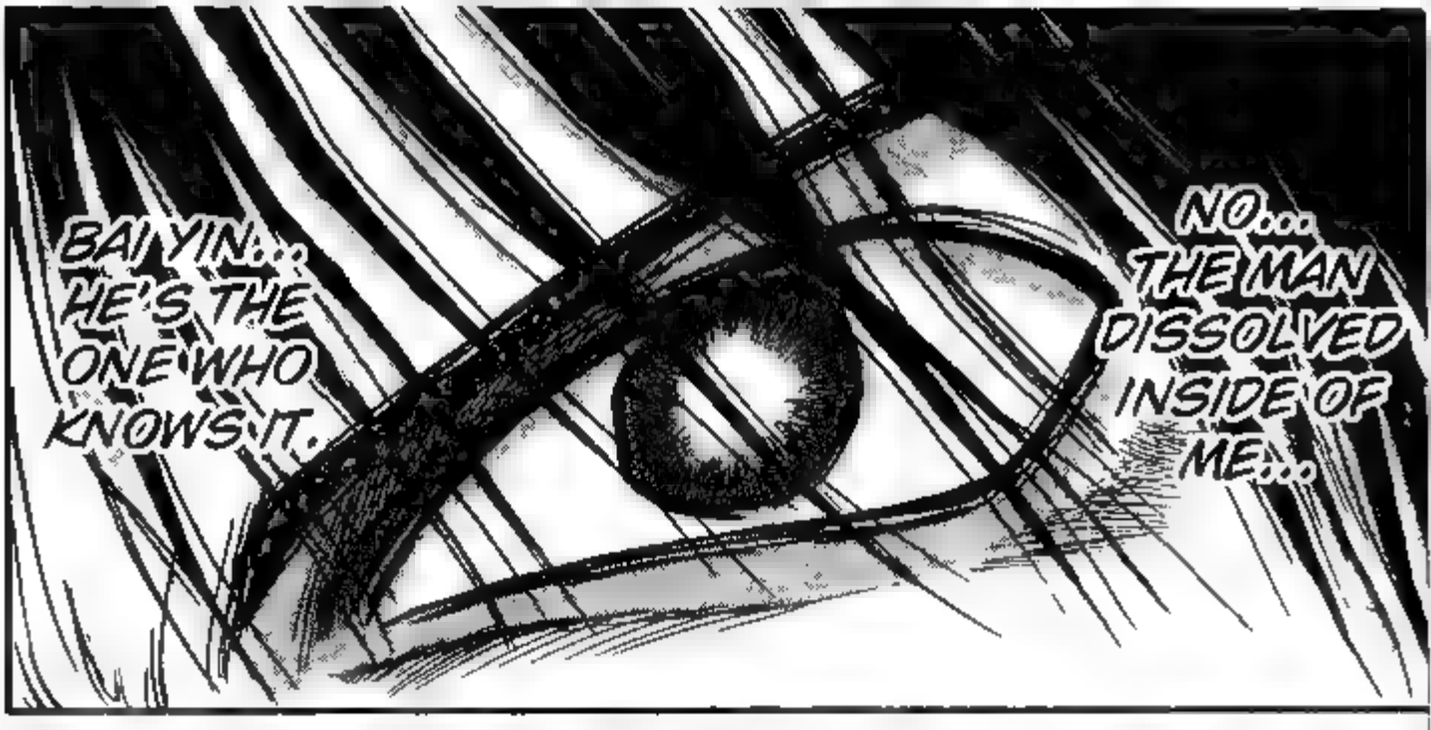
THEY HAD A WINDUP EAGLE MADE OF WOOD THAT COULD FLY FOR THREE DAYS AT A TIME OVER THE HEADS OF AN ASTONISHED CROWD.

THE BAI FAMILY WAS VERY SKILLED, AND THEY WERE VERY FAMOUS.
THEY COULD MAKE THEIR DANCING-GIRL PUPPETS PLAY THE FLUTE OR THE DRUMS, AND, OF COURSE, JUGGLE AS WELL.

6

THERE WERE TWO YOUNG BROTHERS IN THE BAI FAMILY.
THE ELDER WAS CALLED YIN...
AND THE YOUNGER WAS CALLED JIN.

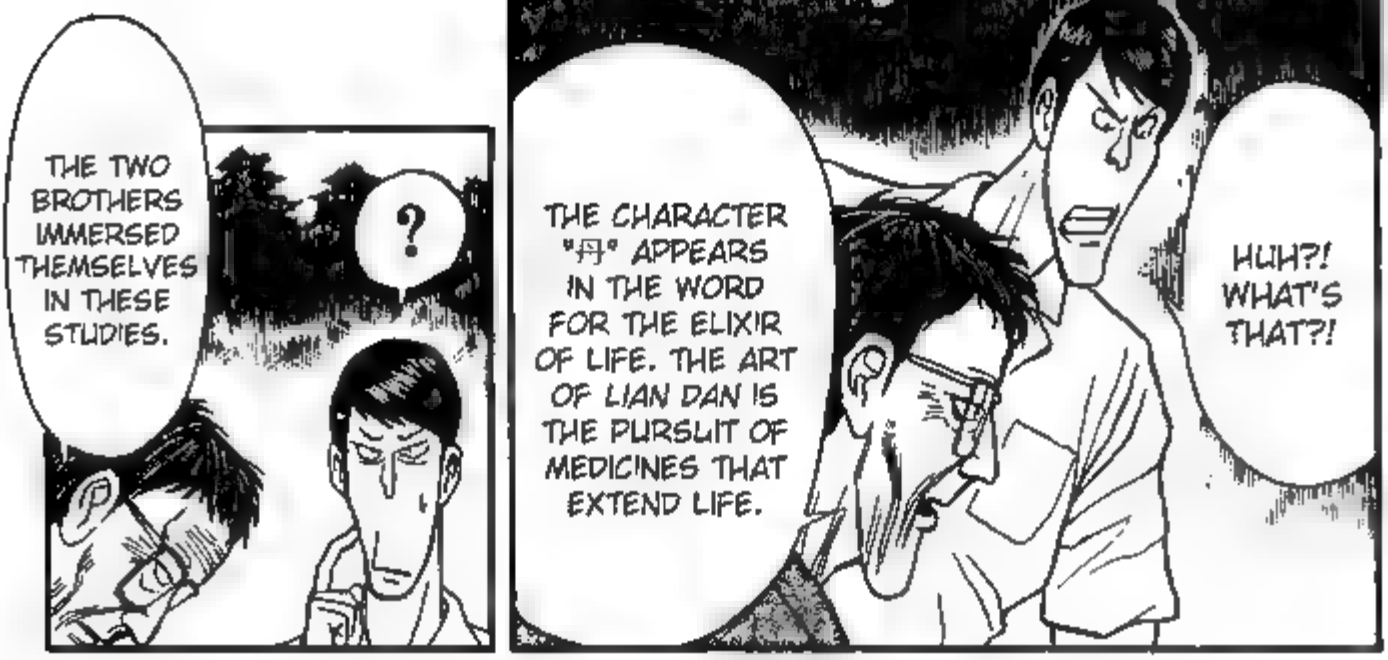
FROM THEIR FATHER AND THE REST OF THE FAMILY, THEY LEARNED HOW TO MANIPULATE PUPPETS...
AND HOW TO MAKE WINDUP DOLLS.
THEY GREW UP RAPIDLY.
THE BROTHERS WERE CLEVER, AND THEY GOT ALONG WELL.
THE BROTHERS GRADUALLY BECAME DISSATISFIED WITH THIS.
BUT...
I KNOW THIS
THAT'S RIGHT
THAT'S RIGHT, JIN, THAT'S RIGHT. WE ARE VERY SKILLED.
WE'RE ALREADY SO GOOD AT MAKING OUR PUPPETS DANCE.
BRO-THER YIN, BRO-THER YIN.

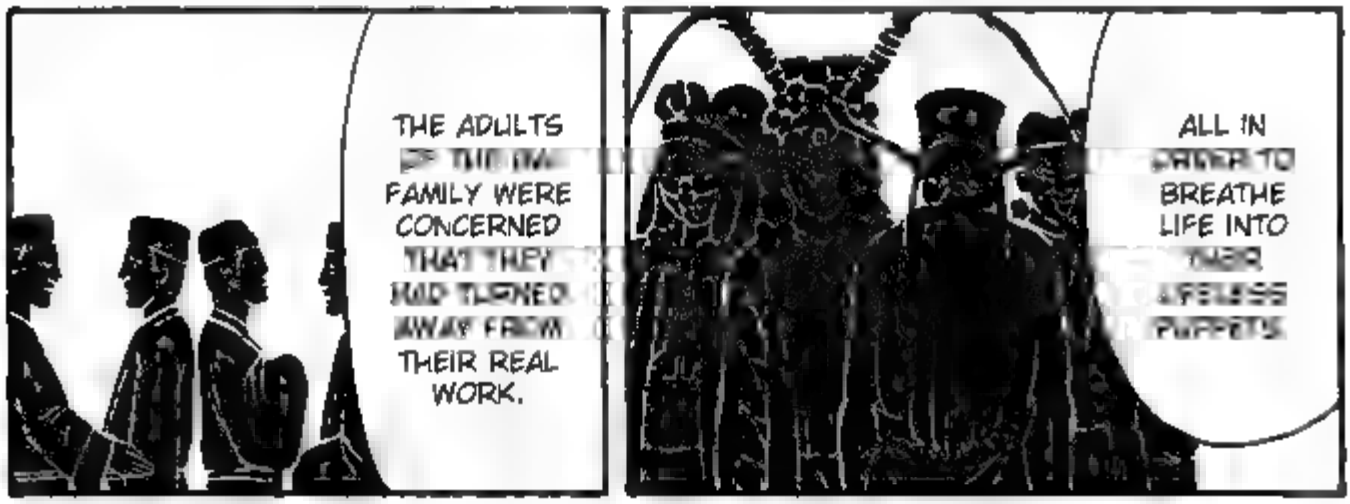

BAI YIN... HE'S THE ONE WHO KNOWS IT.
NO... THE MAN DISSOLVED INSIDE OF ME...

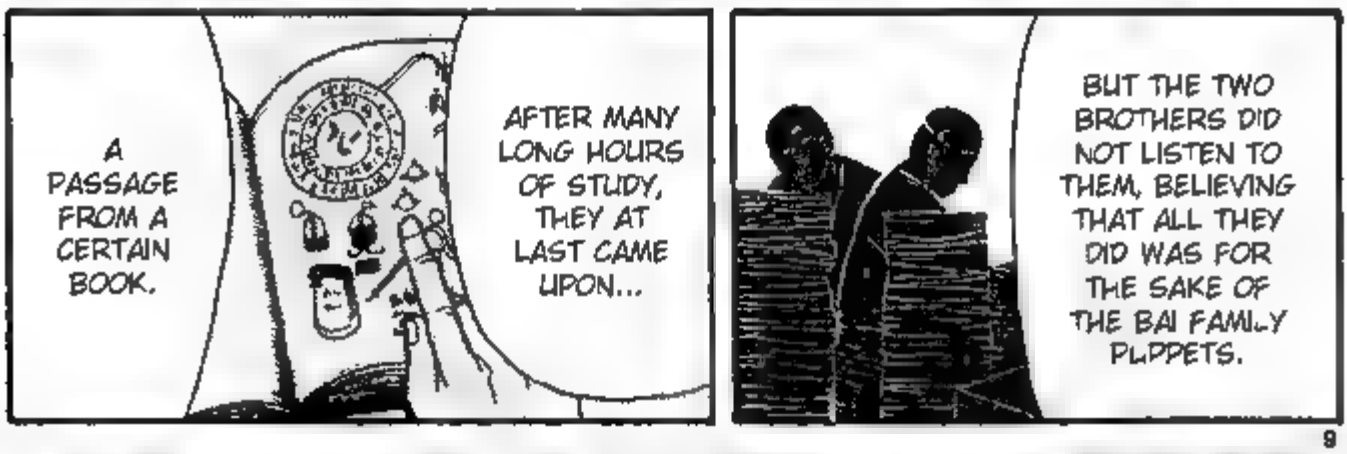
I DO TOO, BROTHER YIN.
EVEN MORE LIKE HUMANS, JIN.
BUT I WANT TO MAKE THEM DANCE...

THE ART OF 煉丹... LIAN DAN...

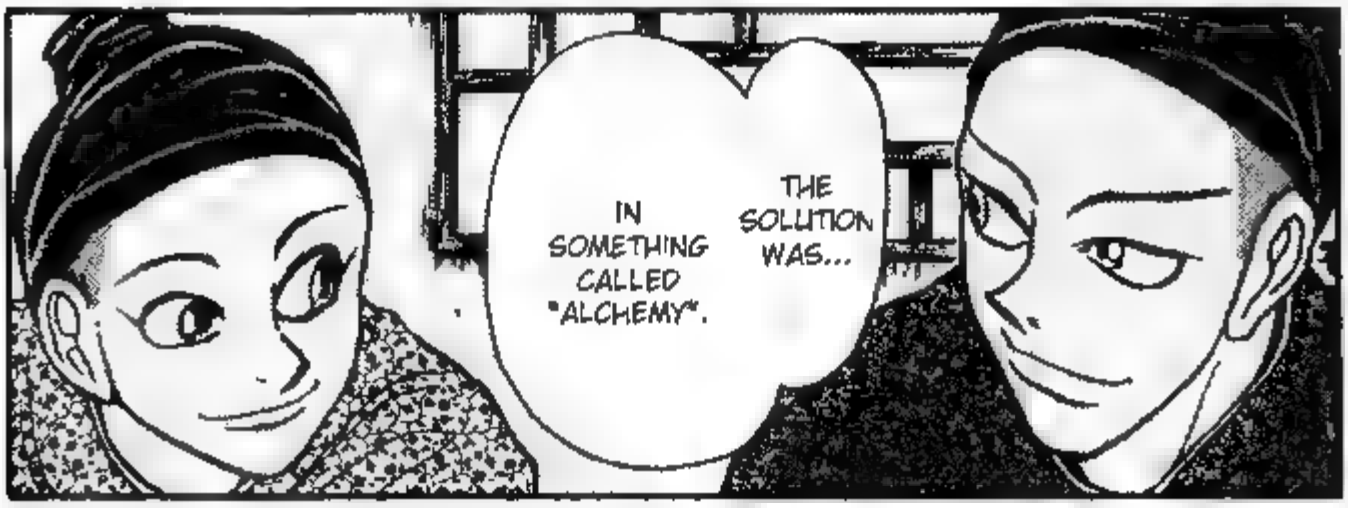
AND SO THEY TURNED TO—
THE TWO OF THEM WANTED TO MAKE THE BAI FAMILY'S PUPPETS MORE LIKE PEOPLE.


THE TWO BROTHERS IMMERSED THEMSELVES IN THESE STUDIES.
?
THE CHARACTER "丹" APPEARS IN THE WORD FOR THE ELIXIR OF LIFE. THE ART OF LIAN DAN IS THE PURSUIT OF MEDICINES THAT EXTEND LIFE.
HUH?! WHAT'S THAT?!


THE ADULTS OF THE BAI FAMILY WERE CONCERNED THAT THEY HAD TURNED AWAY FROM THEIR REAL WORK.
ALL IN ORDER TO BREATHE LIFE INTO THEIR LIFELESS PUPPETS.


A PASSAGE FROM A CERTAIN BOOK.
AFTER MANY LONG HOURS OF STUDY, THEY AT LAST CAME UPON...
BUT THE TWO BROTHERS DID NOT LISTEN TO THEM, BELIEVING THAT ALL THEY DID WAS FOR THE SAKE OF THE BAI FAMILY PUPPETS.

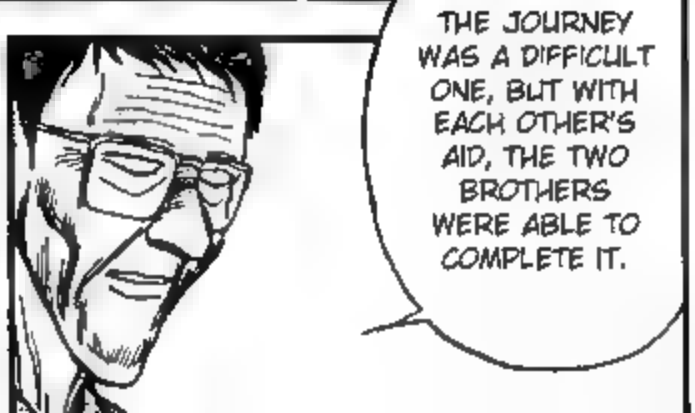
9


IN SOMETHING CALLED "ALCHEMY".
THE SOLUTION WAS...

HEY... WHAT'S WRONG, MING-HAI?
THEY'RE COMING OUT!
THE MEMORIES OF BAI YIN THAT WERE WRIGGLING AROUND INSIDE ME ...

HAVE FINALLY FOUND AN EXIT!

KEEP IT TO-GETHER, JIN!
BROTHER, I CAN'T KEEP WALKING ...


THE JOURNEY WAS A DIFFICULT ONE, BUT WITH EACH OTHER'S AID, THE TWO BROTHERS WERE ABLE TO COMPLETE IT.

THE FAR-AWAY LAND OF EUROPE...
THE GREAT CENTER OF THE STUDY OF ALCHEMY.
THEIR GOAL WAS...
THAT'S RIGHT, JIN... AFTER 8 YEARS, WE'RE HERE AT LAST...
BROTHER... WE'RE HERE...

PRAGUE.
AT THE CITY OF 100 SPIRES ...

CREATED A BEING THAT COULD THINK AND TALK ON ITS OWN...

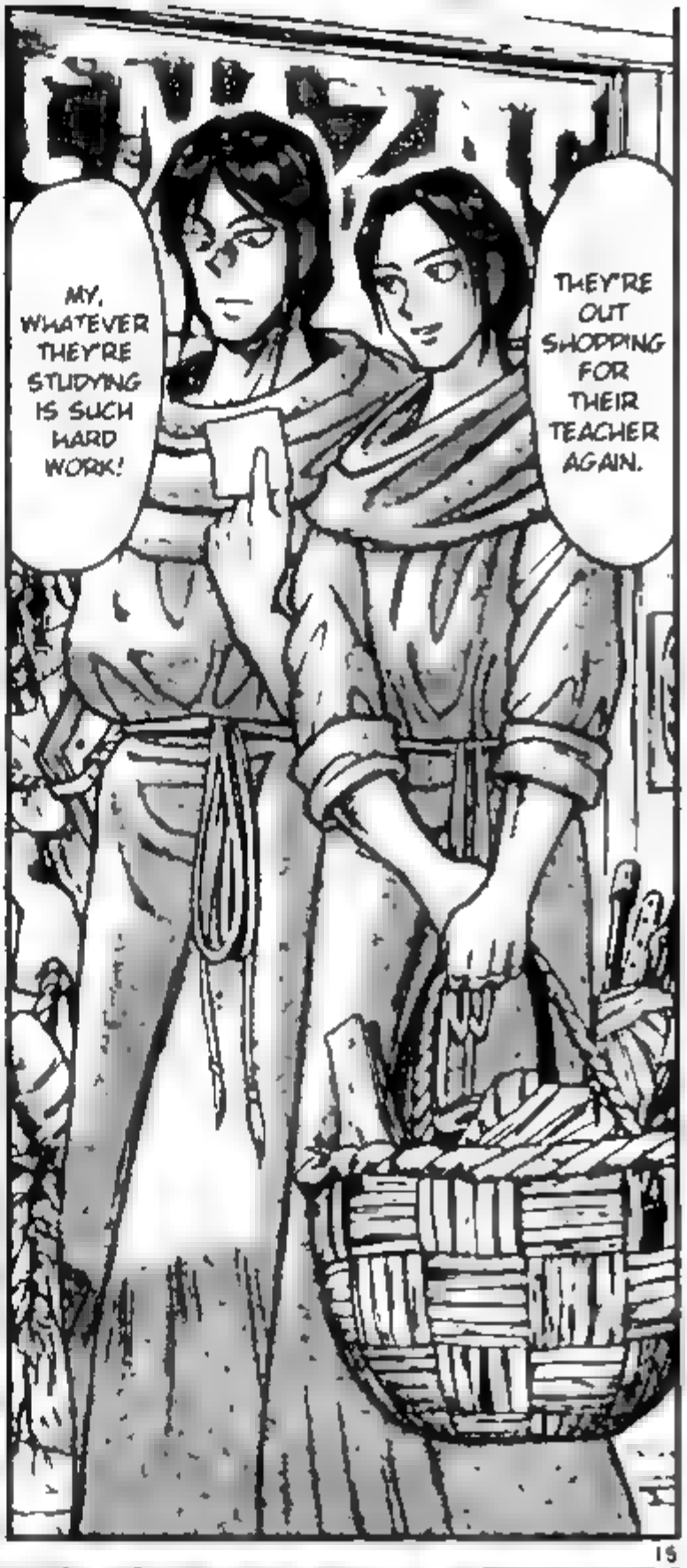
USING METALS AND NATURAL MATERIALS SELECTED BY THE STARS...

AN ALITO-MATON.

WE HUMBLY BEG OF YOU...
TO ACCEPT US AS YOUR STUDENTS.
WE WISH AS THOUGH WE WERE ONE MIND FOR YOU TO IMPART UNTO US YOUR TEACHINGS.
WE COME FROM THE FAR EAST.
AND SO...
AND FINALLY A CERTAIN AGED ALCHEMIST ACCEPTED THEM AS STUDENTS.
YIN AND JIN HELD OUT THE PRECIOUS GOLD DUST THEY HAD PRESERVED THROUGHOUT THEIR ENTIRE JOURNEY...

THEY SAY THEY COME FROM THE FAR-AWAY LAND OF QING.
THAT'S WHY THEY HAVE SUCH UNUSUAL EYES.
AHH, HOW WONDER-FUL.
MASTER YIN AND MASTER JIN ARE PASSING BY.
OH! LOOK, LOOK.

MASTER JIN AND MASTER YIN ARE NOTHING OF THE SORT!
MAMA ALWAYS TELLS ME TO STAY AWAY FROM THEM, BECAUSE THEY'RE CROOKS AT WORK BREWING UP MYSTERIOUS POTIONS.


MY, WHATEVER THEY'RE STUDYING IS SUCH HARD WORK!
THEY'RE OUT SHOPPING FOR THEIR TEACHER AGAIN.

THOSE GIRLS ARE LOOKING OVER HERE AGAIN.
BRO-THER ...
SEA SALT FROM SPAIN... MICA... AND SOME NETTLES.

15

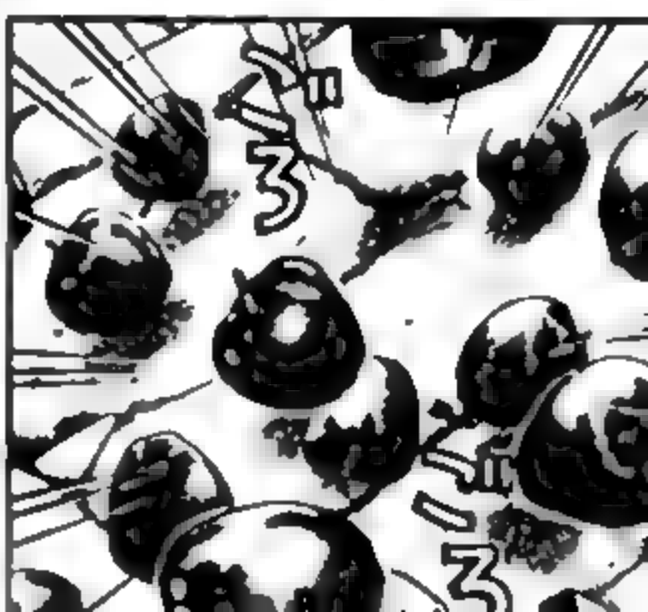
JI...

BUT I THINK GETTING TO KNOW WOMEN IS A FINE WAY TO GET CLOSER TO THE GREAT LAW.
WHAT OF IT? WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME FOR WOMEN, JIN.

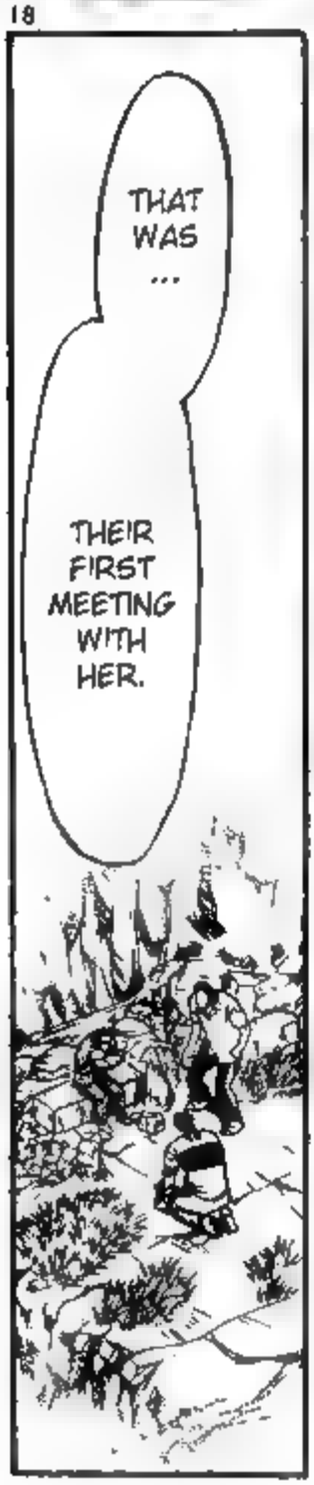
BUT ALL THE GIRLS IN TOWN THINK, "THAT FEELING LIKE HE'S DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO HIS STUDIES IS SO DREAMY!"
YOU'RE STILL NO GOOD WITH WOMEN, BROTHER YIN.
WH-WH-WHAT GOOD ARE WOMEN, ANYWAY?!
JIN...! THAT MAY BE TRUE FOR YOU, BUT I WANT NO PART OF IT!

DAMN IT, JIN! ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF YOUR BIG BROTHER ?!
EEK!

REAL-LY, BRO-THER ...
AH! SORRY, THAT WAS MY FAULT.



WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
ER, EXCUSE ME...
S-SORRY.
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T WAVE YOUR ARMS AROUND LIKE THAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET.


THAT WAS ...
THEIR FIRST MEETING WITH HER.

AND WHAT ARE YOU TWO CALLED?
MY NAME IS FRAN-CINE.
FRAN-CINE.

translation by funnjraba tumblr com

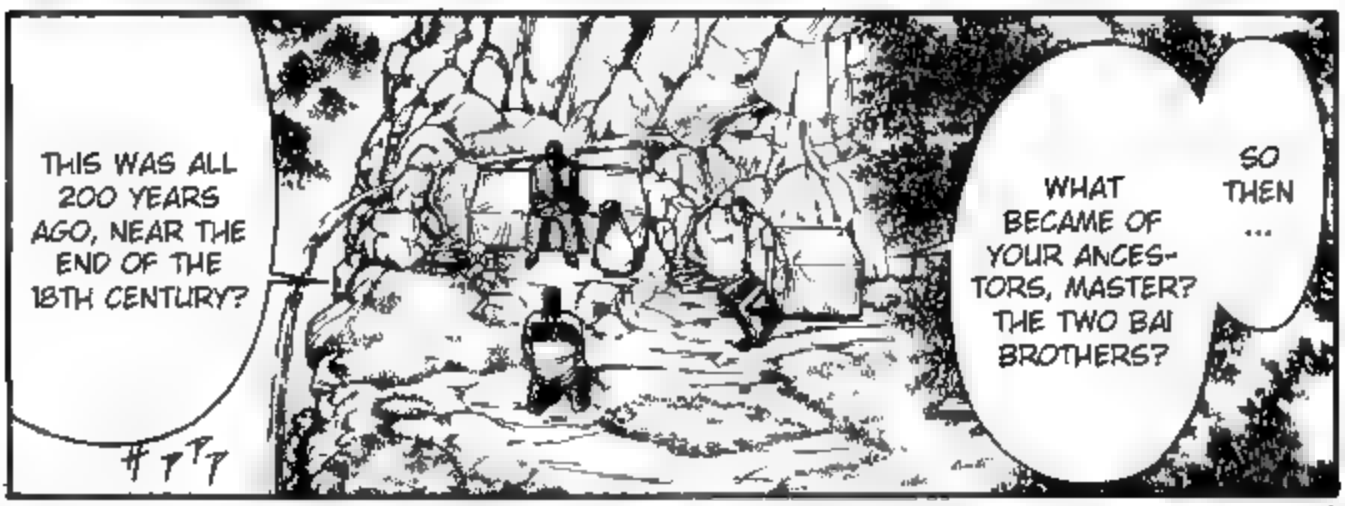
pg. 8-9 Chinese alchemy was focused more on the search for immortality than European alchemy whose adherents were split between that and the transformation of lead into gold. In fiction, of course, most alchemists are more interested in immortality. The original version of this chapter uses the Japanese reading of 煉丹術 (*rentanjutsu*) as a contrast to the word for European alchemy (錬金術 *renkinjutsu*) which uses 金, gold, instead of 丹, cinnabar, which Chinese alchemists thought would prolong your life if you ingested it.

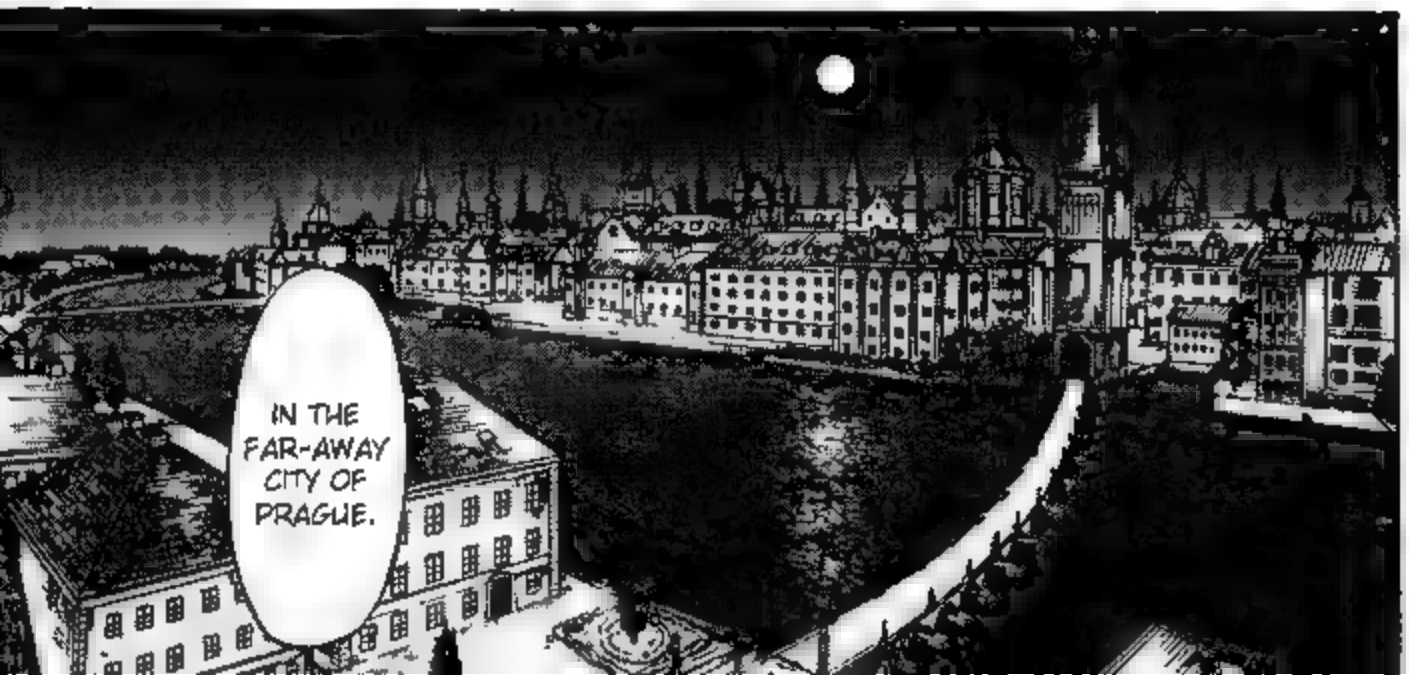
pg. 14 China was at this time under the rule of the Qing dynasty.

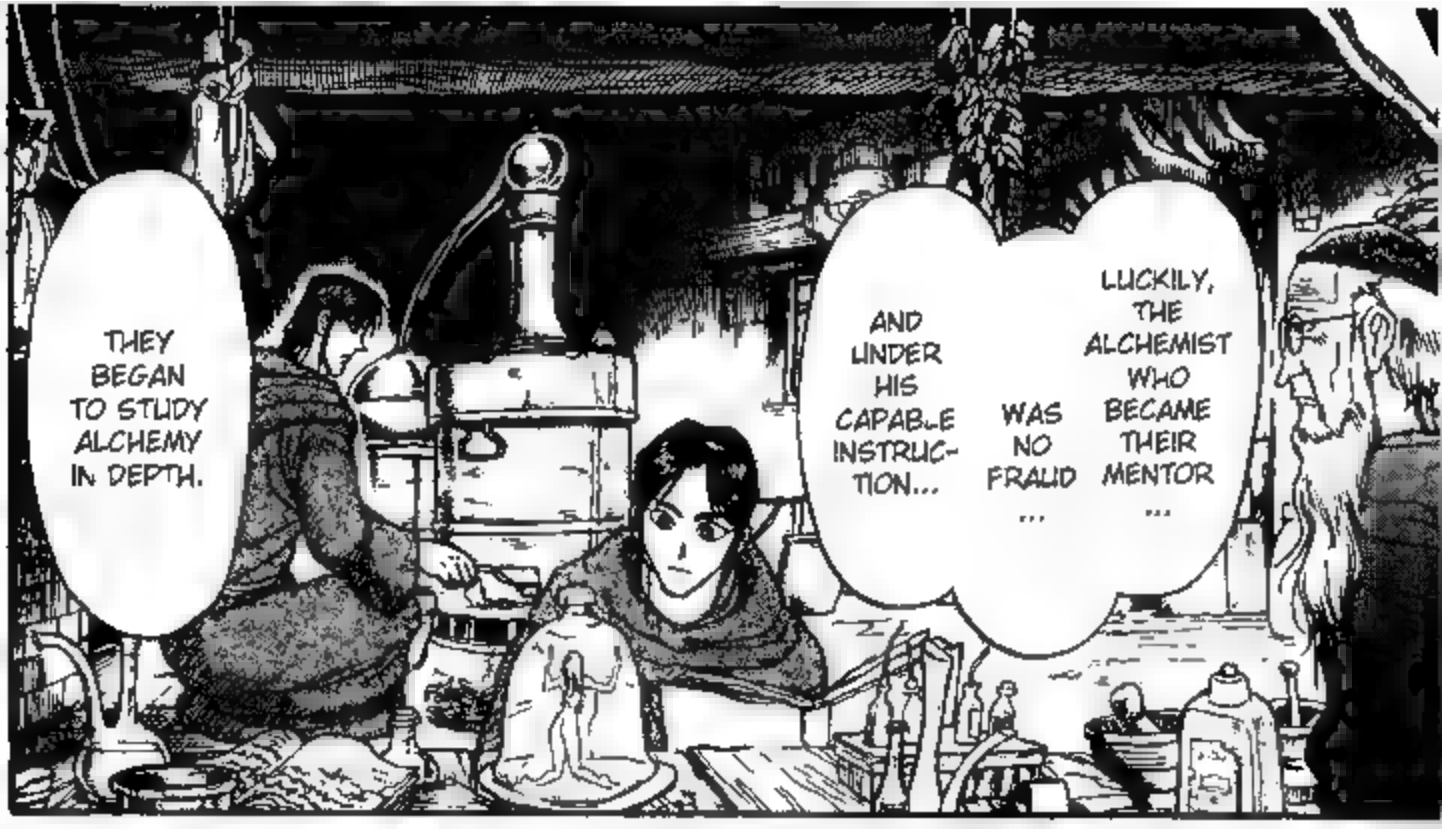
English has a limited number of honorifics, so some words that are completely different in Japanese have ended up the same in my translation. "Brother Yin" is Yin-*niisan* in the original, while "Brother Wang" is Wang-*aniki*, as I've previously noted. Master Yin and Master Jin are not Yin-*sensei* and Jin-*sensei*, but Yin-*san* and Jin-*san*. I wanted to avoid using "Mr." in this case for reasons that will become clear later.

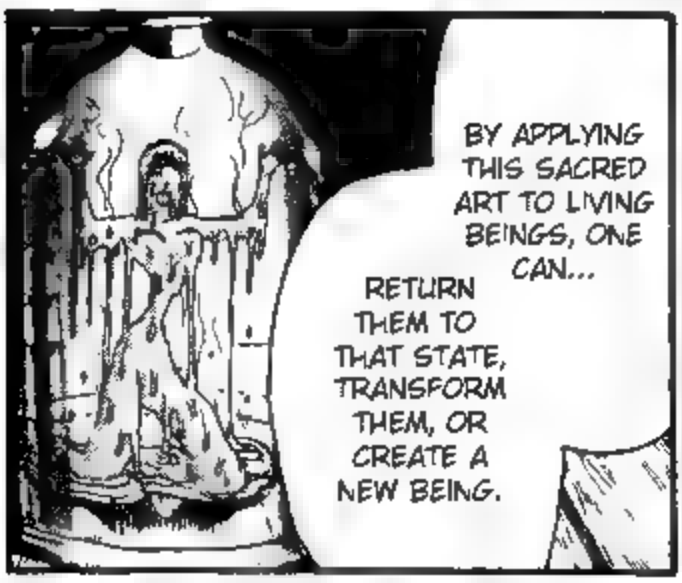
Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Act 7
Francine


THIS WAS ALL 200 YEARS AGO, NEAR THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY?
SO THEN ...
WHAT BECAME OF YOUR ANCES-TORS, MASTER? THE TWO BAI BROTHERS?




THEY BEGAN TO STUDY ALCHEMY IN DEPTH.
AND UNDER HIS CAPABLE INSTRUC-TION...
WAS NO FRAUD ...
LUCKILY, THE ALCHEMIST WHO BECAME THEIR MENTOR ...


BY APPLYING THIS SACRED ART TO LIVING BEINGS, ONE CAN...
RETURN THEM TO THAT STATE, TRANSFORM THEM, OR CREATE A NEW BEING.

LIVING BE NGS, MINERALS, AND OTHER MATERIALS: EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD WAS CREATED FROM ITS ORIGINAL STATE...
BY THE DEMI-URGE. THERE-FORE...

I SEE, MASTER.
CAN BE RETURNED TO ITS ORIGINAL COMPONENTS WITH RELA-TIVE EASE.
THIS LEVEL OF HOMUN-CULUS ...

THAT'S JIN FOR YOU ...

OH, NO, I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO...
BUT YOU ARE LEARNING WELL, JIN. YOU CAME HERE ONLY A YEAR AGO, YET YOU ARE ALREADY CAPABLE OF MAKING HOMUNCULI.

THE ELDER BROTHER, YIN, REDOUBLED HIS EFFORTS SO AS NOT TO FALL BEHIND HIS SKILLED YOUNGER BROTHER, EVEN FORGOING FOOD AND SLEEP IN FAVOR OF STUDYING.
AS YOUR OLDER BROTHER, I'VE GOT TO WORK HARD TOO!

WITH THE POWER OF ALCHEMY THEY COULD BREATHE LIFE INTO THEIR PUPPETS, AND CAUSE THEM TO MOVE LIKE HUMANS.
TO IMPROVE THE PUPPETEERING TECHNIQUES OF THE R CLAN.
THEY HAD BUT ONE AIM ...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
HERE IS YOUR PAY-MENT.

3

BY DAY, THEY WALKED THE STREETS SELLING MEDICINE TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND FUND THEIR ALCHEMICAL RESEARCH.

I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.
YOUR TEACHER'S MEDICINE IS VERY GOOD AT TREATING HEAD-ACHES.

... GOT IT.
YES, WELL, WHATEVER HER NAME IS... THERE ARE SOME UGLY RUMORS ABOUT THAT GIRL. HE SHOULD BE CAREFUL.
YEAH, FRAN-CINE...
BY THE WAY, YIN. IT SEEMS YOUR BROTHER HAS BEEN SPEAKING WITH THAT APPLE GIRL.
4
IS THAT SO... WELL, WE SHOULD GET BACK TO STUDYING.
YES, MASTER'S MEDICINES SELL VERY WELL. LOOK AT ALL THIS MONEY!
BRO-THER!
OH, JIN. YOU MADE SOME SALES?
IT'S MASTER YIN AND MASTER JIN.
OH!
THEY'RE VERY SWEET AND TASTY!
APPLES FOR SALE!
ER... YOU KNOW, BROTHER ...
WHAT IS IT, JIN?
UM... WOULD IT BE ALL RIGHT IF I BOUGHT... AN APPLE?

I LOVE BUYING APPLES FROM FRANCINE, BROTHER.

AND I'M BAI JIN.
I I'M BAI YIN.
MY NAME IS FRANCINE. AND WHAT ARE YOU TWO CALLED?

TCH! WHAT AM I THINKING ABOUT? I SHOULD BE THINKING OF MY STUDIES

I-JUST LOVE THEM!

OH, THEN YOU'RE FOREIGNERS YOUR NAMES SOUND VERY NICE

THERE'S THAT FRANCINE AGAIN.

THAT GIRL IS A THIEF.
AND SHE'S GETTING FAR TOO FAMILIAR WITH JIN AGAIN.
WHILE WEARING THOSE RAGS, NO LESS. DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY FATHER TOLD ME?

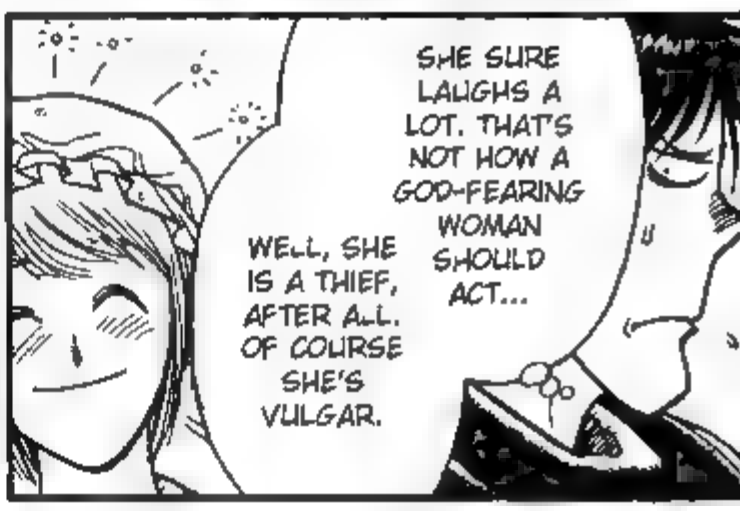
EEK!
HMPH, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS. SHE'S THAT LOW A WOMAN, HUH? I'D BETTER LET JIN KNOW.
OH DEAR.
AH... MASTER YIN.
A THIEF ...?

JIN, WE'RE SCHOLARS. WE DON'T NEED TO BE OUT MERRY-MAKING.
BUT, BROTHER, SABBATH IS A DAY BLESSED BY THE LORD AS WELL.
EVEN WE NEED A REST SOME-TIMES ...
I THOUGHT THERE WERE A LOT OF PEO-PLE IN TOWN TODAY. IT'S BECAUSE OF THE CARNIVAL. WHY DON'T WE GO?
HEY, JIN...
BRO-THER!
THEY EVEN HAVE PER-FORM-ERS.
IT'S A FES-TIVAL THEY HAVE IN MAY.
CAR-NI-VAL?

I JUST LOVE WATCHING THE CLOWNS AND THE PER-FORMERS!
COME, LET'S GO SEE THE CARNIVAL!
JIN, THAT WOMAN IS...

H-HEY! JIN!
COME ON, BRO-THER. JUST FOR A LITTLE WH LE.

OH, THANK YOU!
HERE ARE SOME SWEETS FOR YOU, FRANCINE.
AND YOU TOO, BROTHER.


WELL, SHE IS A THIEF, AFTER ALL. OF COURSE SHE'S VULGAR.
SHE SURE LAUGHS A LOT. THAT'S NOT HOW A GOD-FEARING WOMAN SHOULD ACT...

8

WHY ISN'T SHE EATING THE REST OF THE SWEETS ...?

PUPPET SHOWS ARE VERY POPULAR IN PRAGUE AND THE REST OF BOHEMIA.
HEY, DID YOU HEAR THAT, BROTHER? PUPPETS.
I'D LIKE TO SEE... THE PUPPET SHOW.
WHAT SHOULD WE SEE NEXT?
REALLY ...?!
THE TWO OF US ARE FROM A FAMILY OF PUPPET-EERS.
EH? WHAT IS IT?
IS THAT SO?
シーン
EXCUSE ME, AREN'T YOU PUTTING ON A PUPPET SHOW?
HERE IT IS.
I SEE. THAT'S A SHAME.
NO CAN DO, YOUNG MAN.
THE MANI-PULATOR HAD TOO MUCH PILSEN. HE'S DEAD DRUNK.

THIS IS YOUR BUSIEST SEASON. IT'D BE NICE IF YOU COULD GET THEM TO HELP OUT, NO?
FRAN-CINE, PLEASE ...
I-I SUP-POSE ...

SIR! AS A MATTER OF FACT, THESE TWO ARE PUPPETEERS!
HEY, WAIT A SECOND.

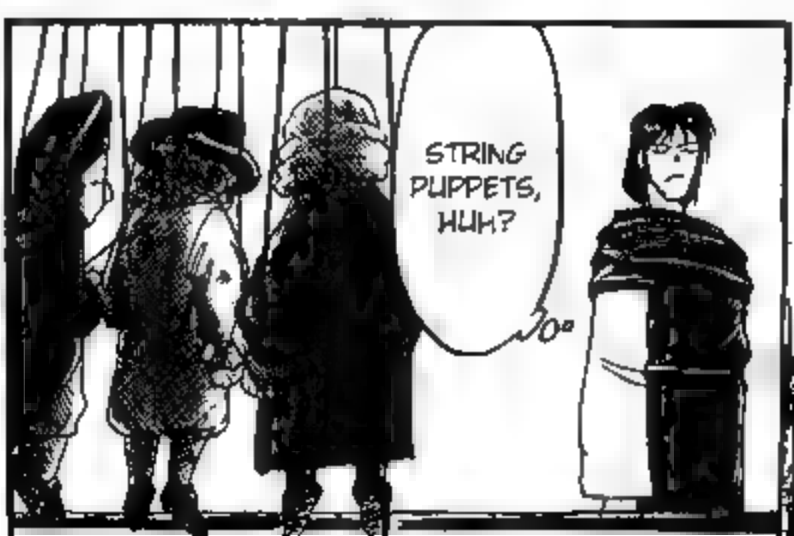
YOU'D BE SURE TO MAKE A LITTLE EXTRA FOR YOUR-SELF, TOO.

WELL, I'M NOT GONNA ...

I'M SORRY. BUT I WANTED TO SEE YOU TWO AT WORK.
HONESTLY, FRANCINE.
WILL YOU DO IT?
THAT'S TRUE.

PHEW...
...I GUESS I WILL ...
YOU REALLY WON'T DO IT, BRO-THER?

.....

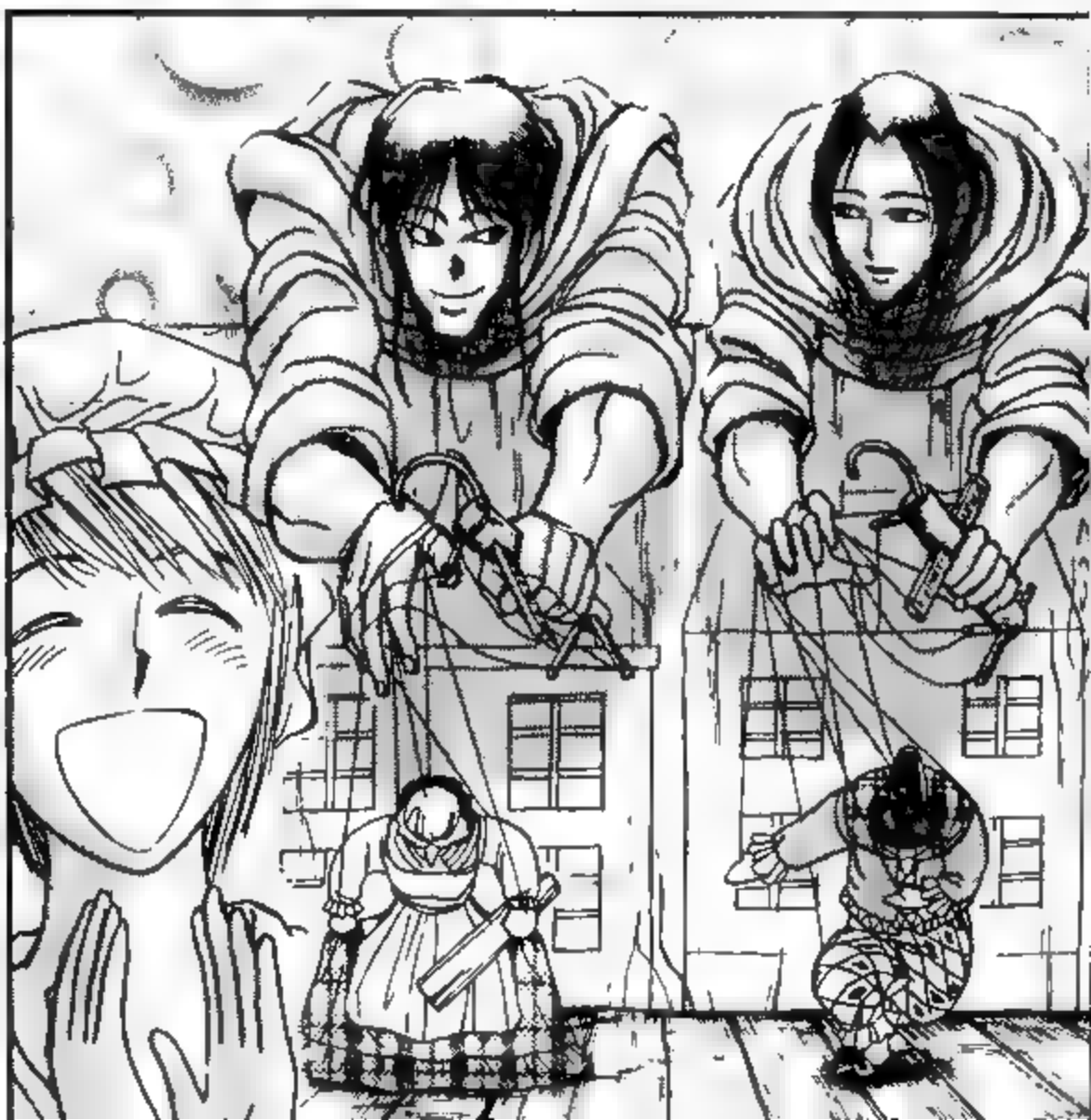

STRING PUPPETS, HUH?

WHAT A SMILE THIS WOMAN HAS...
ぱぁぁ
YAY!
BUT BRAVE PUNCH, WHO IS BLESSED BY A GODDESS, IS NOT PIERCED BY THEIR WEAPONS.
AYE.
AYE.
INSO-LENT SCOUN-DREL!
STAB HIM.
OH, NO.
OH, NO. WE CANNOT STAB HIM.
BOING.
WAIT, SIR! DON'T RUN AWAY.

AHAHAHAHA
おはははは
POW
POW
WAHH, FORGIVE ME...
SKIPPING OUT ON WORK AGAIN, DEAR?
AND THEN PUNCH'S WIFE ARRIVES ON THE SCENE.

SO ARE YOU, BRO-THER.
YOU'RE AS GOOD AS EVER, JIN.
AND SO OUR STORY COMES TO AN END.
OF COURSE, PUNCH IS NO MATCH FOR HIS WIFE...

あああ



I WANT TO SEE YOU USE YOUR PUPPETS AGAIN SOME TIME.
UFU-FUFU... YOU TWO WERE SO POPULAR.
HEY... OH, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE. HE DRANK TOO MUCH PILSEN BEER.
HEY, JIN.

THEY COULDN'T PAY YOU IN MONEY, BUT THEY GAVE YOU THIS INSTEAD.
BUT YOU GOT ALL THIS BREAD FOR IT.
HMPH. WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO SHOW OFF OUR ACT.

YOU TAKE IT, THEN.
OH, MY... IT WOULD HELP ME VERY MUCH...
ISN'T GOING TO HELP US IN OUR QUEST FOR THE TRUTH.
ALL THAT MOLDY BREAD ...
TH-TH-THANK YOU.
HUH ...?!
ALL OF IT!

TODAY WAS VERY FUN!
HERE WE GO...
GOOD-BYE, NOW.
.....
TCH.
Phew.

HOLD ON... I'LL GO WITH YOU.
AH...
THERE'S NO NEED...

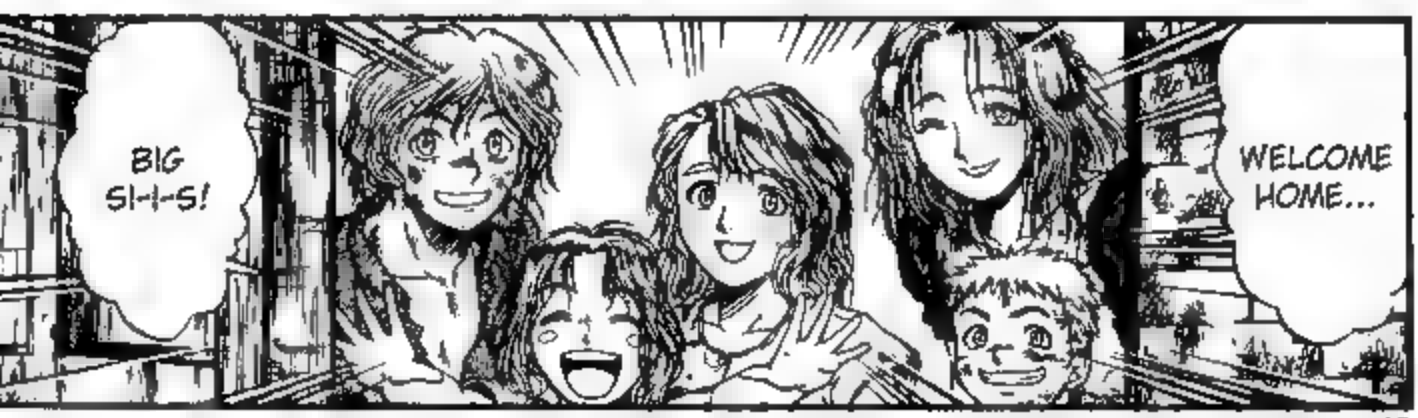
A-ALL RIGHT ...
IT'S NO TROU-BLE.

……

I GUESS PRAGUE HAS ITS SLUMS TOO...
YOU CAN FIND THEM ANYWHERE YOU GO.
THERE ARE ALWAYS MORE POOR PEOPLE THAN RICH.

OH, IT'S BIG SIS.
IT'S FRAN-CINE.
どいて
どいて

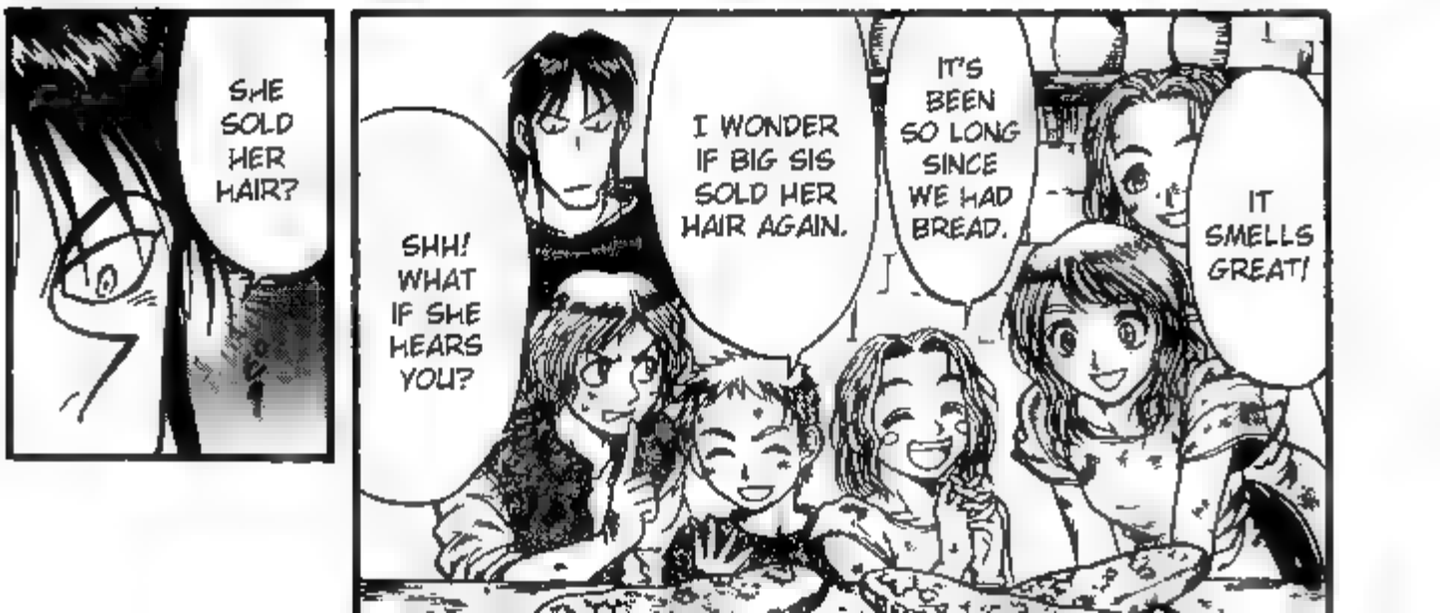
I'M HO-O-ME, EVERONE!


BIG SI-I-S!
WELCOME HOME...

WAIT A MOMENT! I HAVE A SURPRISE TODAY!
HUH ?

BIG SIS IS HERE, BIG SIS IS HERE!
ARE YOU ALL DOING WELL?
BIG SI-I-S!

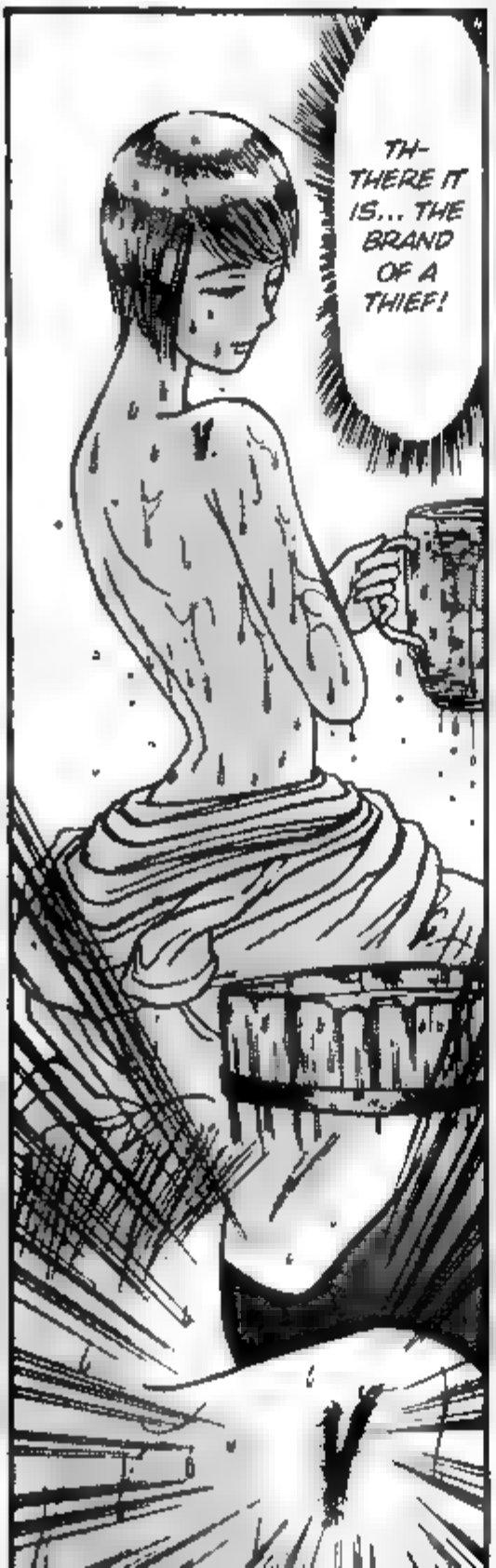
...SO THAT'S WHY...
AAAND... BREAD!
LOOK, I HAVE SWEETS!
SAY THANK YOU, EVERYONE! COME ON NOW!
AH... NO, I...
MASTER YIN THERE GAVE IT TO ME-E-E!
WH-WHERE DID YOU GET ALL THIS?
SAY GRACE BEFORE YOU EAT, EVERYONE.
OKAAAY!
...AH. W-WEL-COME...
THANK YOU!


SHE SOLD HER HAIR?
SHH! WHAT IF SHE HEARS YOU?
I WONDER IF BIG SIS SOLD HER HAIR AGAIN.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE HAD BREAD.
IT SMELLS GREAT!

LOVED BIG SIS'S LONG HAIR, BUT...
WE ALL...
DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING? YOU CAN SELL BEAUTIFUL HAIR FOR A LOT OF MONEY SO RICH PEOPLE CAN MAKE WIGS WITH IT.
... WHAT ?
YEAH. ONCE, WHEN WE HAD NOTHING AT ALL TO EAT ...
BIG SIS HAD TO SELL HER HAIR.
WE'VE GOT BREAD TODAY! BE HAPPY!
WHAT ARE YOU ALL SO QUIET FOR?
COME ON, NOW!
17
HEE HEE.
Y-YEAH.
IT DOES.
AND ANYWAY ...
DOESN'T THIS HAIRSTYLE ALSO SUIT ME VERY WELL?

WHERE'S SHE GOING WITH THAT BREAD?
OKA-AY.
MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME, MASTER YIN.
I'M STEPPING OUT FOR A MOMENT. START WITHOUT ME!

FRAN-CINE...
WHAT THE HELL KIND OF WOMAN ARE YOU ?!


TH-THERE IT IS... THE BRAND OF A THIEF!

splash

WHY IS SHE BATHING ...?
!
HUH ...?

BADUMP!

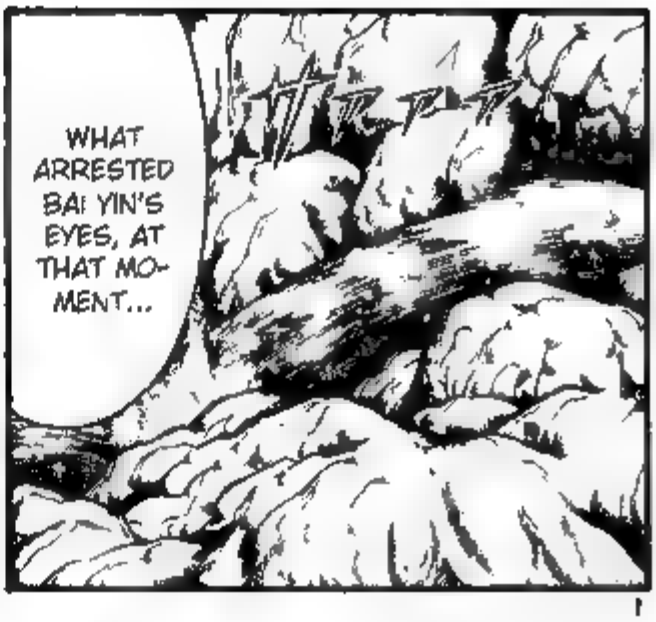
translation by funnjraba tumblr com

pg 18: The V is for the French *voleuse*

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums
for removing the Japanese text, and to the
anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill
is welcome to take over at any time or
to redo chapters I have already done
if they are below the quality that
this series deserves

AS HE GAZED UPON FRANCINE'S RADIANT FORM...


WHAT ARRESTED BAI YIN'S EYES, AT THAT MOMENT...

Act 8

Angel

WAS THE VIVID BRAND ON HER SHOULDER.

IN THOSE DAYS...
THAT WAS THE UNMIS-TAKABLE MARK...
OF A THIEF'S CRIME.

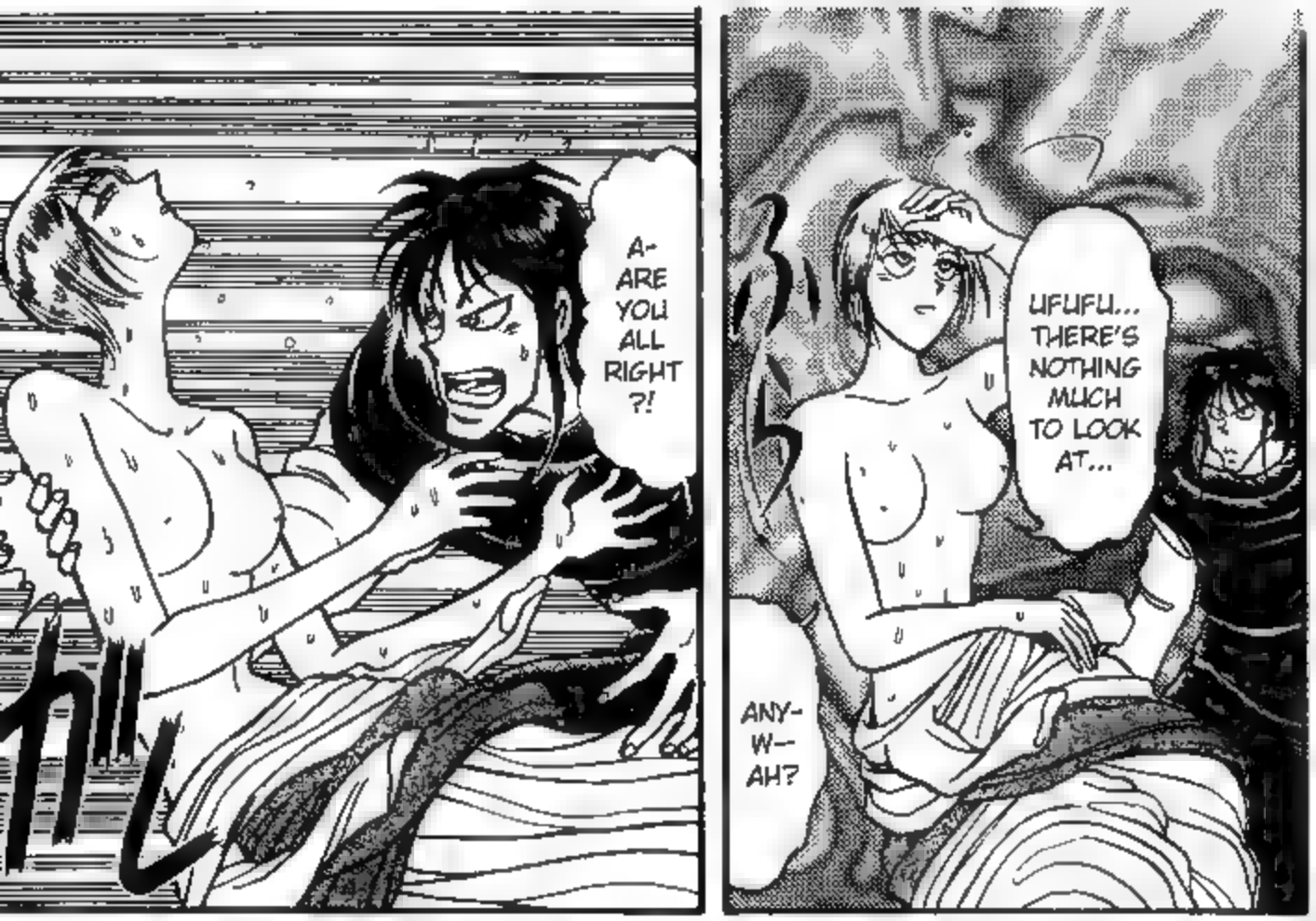
HE WAS UTTERLY BEWILD-ERED.

AS HE STOOD IN THE SLUMS OF PRAGUE, 200 YEARS AGO...

2

I-I DIDN'T MEAN TO LOOK...!
AH... MASTER YIN?

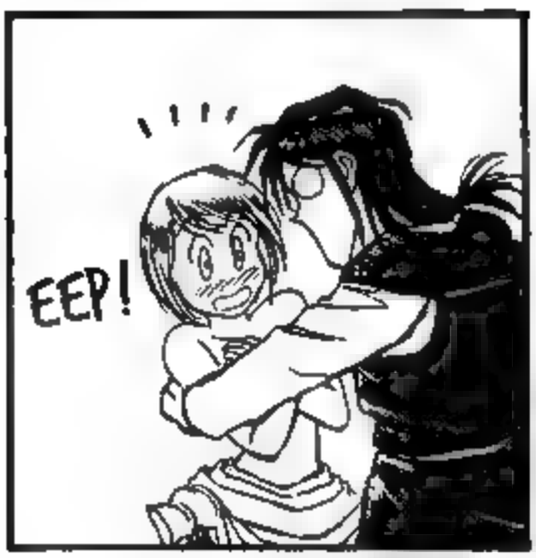
SHE LAUGHS ALL THE TIME, SHE SUPPORTS THOSE KIDS... AND SHE'S A THIEF?!
WHAT IS THIS WOMAN ?!


A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
UFUFU... THERE'S NOTHING MUCH TO LOOK AT...
ANY-W-AH?

MM-HM.
.....
THE MARK ON MY SHOULDER...?
...DID YOU SEE...

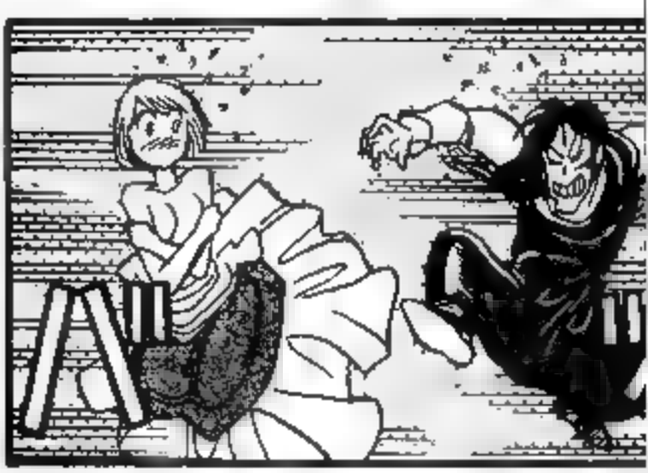
3

HUH?!
OH NO ...!
WHY DID YOU STEA-
GRRROWL
THAT I'M... A SINNER.
SO YOU'VE FOUND OUT...
... AHA ...


EEP!

THANK YOU FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME, BUT THIS IS VERY EMBARRASSING...!
THAT'S PRETTY WORRYING !!
Y-YOU'RE THAT HUNGRY ?!

I... I WAS SHARING IT...
B-BUT, WHEN YOU WENT OUT EARLIER, DIDN'T YOU HAVE THE BREAD WITH YOU?



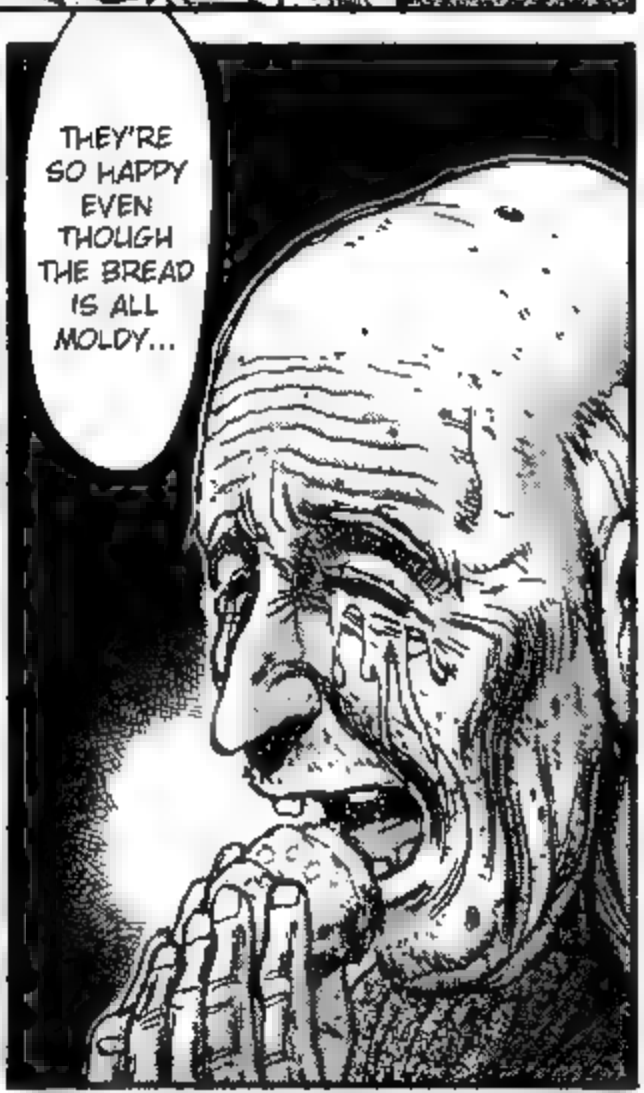
YOU IDIOT!! WHY WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR OWN FOOD AWAY TO OTHER PEOPLE?!

YOU...

HM...

WE'RE GOING TO GO GET ALL THAT BREAD BACK.
UM... WHERE TO?
COME ON!!
ダッ

SO DON'T TALK ANYMORE ABOUT TAKING IT BACK.
I'M FINE NOT EATING TODAY.
YOU SEE?


THEY'RE SO HAPPY EVEN THOUGH THE BREAD IS ALL MOLDY...

WAIT A SECOND ...
HEY!
SO, I'LL BE GOING NOW...!

5

UH, I'M AN ACQUAIN-TANCE...
OH? WHO ARE YOU?

"LADY" ...?
WHO'S THERE?
AH, LADY FRAN-CINE...

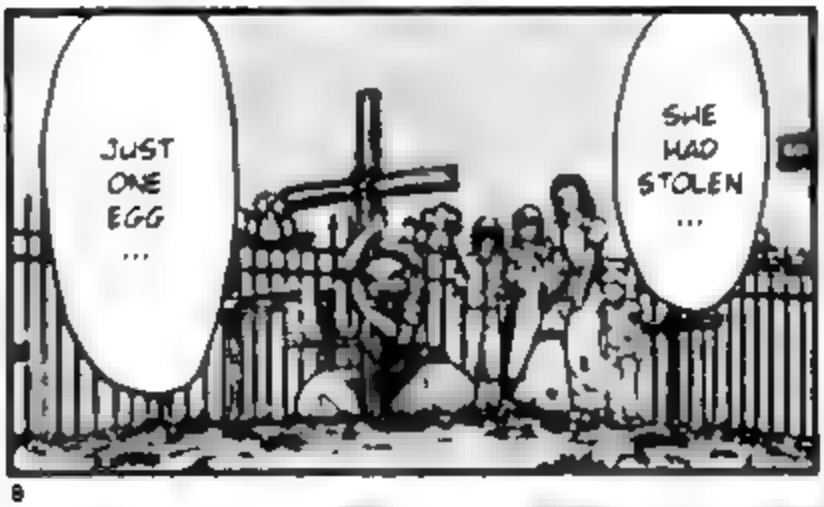
SHE IS... AN ANGEL.
.....
YOU CALL HER "LADY"? WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT GIRL...?
AH, I SEE. YOU'RE WITH LADY FRANCINE...
SHE ESCAPED FROM THE HANDS OF THE SLAVERS AND SETTLED DOWN HERE TO LOOK AFTER CHILDREN WITH NO FAMILIES...
THEY SAY THAT LADY FRANCINE WAS BOUGHT IN FRANCE BY TRAFFICKERS AND CAME HERE TO PRAGUE AS A SLAVE.
AN ANGEL?
LAST YEAR, ONE OF THE CHILDREN IN LADY FRANCINE'S CARE FELL ILL WITH SEVERE PNEUMONIA.
H-HEY, LADY ...
SHE DOES MANY SMALL JOBS...
AND GIVES ALL THE MONEY TO THE REST OF US POOR CREATURES WITHOUT A HINT OF REGRET.
ポ ポ ポ
DOES THAT INCLUDE THEFT ...?
BECAUSE THEY HAD NO MONEY, THE DOCTORS WOULD NOT SEE HIM. HE WAS GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.
NO, THAT... WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF THE OFFICIALS' CRUELTY ...

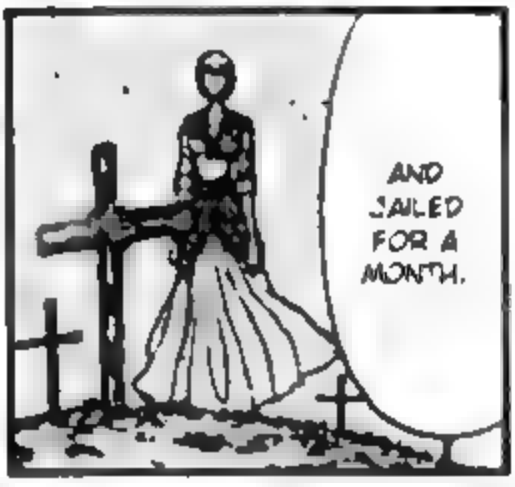
I'M SO SORRY!
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY!
THERE WAS NO WAY LEFT TO EARN THE MONEY ...
SHE HAD SOLD HER HAIR JUST RECENTLY, AND SO ...
LADY FRAN-CINE...
AND SO LADY FRAN-CINE...
A SINGLE EGG...
SHE STOLE ...
7
THE EGG NEVER REACHED THAT CHILD...
BUT ...
TO GET SOME NUTRITION INTO HIS WEAKENED BODY...
AN ORPHAN WITH NO BLOOD TIES TO HER.
FOR THAT CHILD ...

SHE WAS BRAND-ED

THE CHILD DIED ...

FOR A FEW PIECES OF GOLD, ANOTHER PERSON IN NEED BETRAYED HER.


JUST ONE EGG ...
SHE HAD STOLEN ...


AND JAILED FOR A MONTH.

8

PLEASE, BRING HER HAPPINESS.

AH . NO. I ..
YOU ARE LADY FRANCINE'S LOVER, ARE YOU NOT?

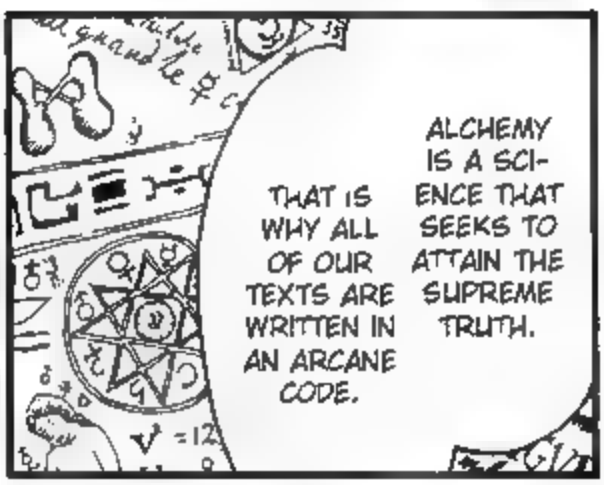
SHE SHOWS US A HINT OF HOPE .
WE LIVE IN A CRUEL, CRUEL WORLD BUT IN THE MIDST OF THIS HELL...

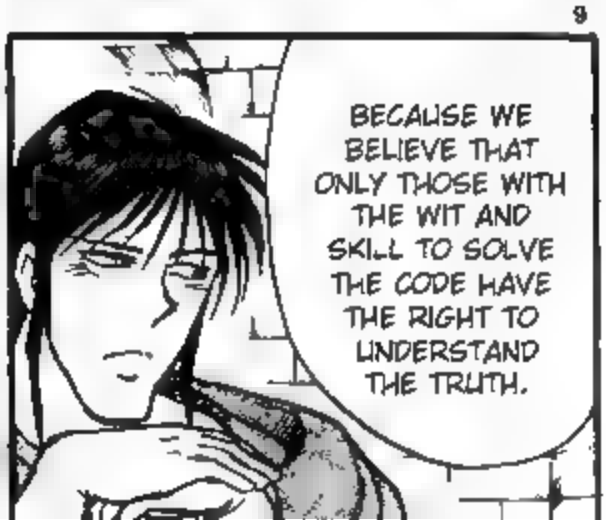
THAT HEAVEN MIGHT REALLY EXIST .

THAT GIRL IS...
OUR ANGEL.

YIN, IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO LISTEN TO ME, YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE.
TRUTH IS NOT FOR THE SLOTHFUL.

UH... YES!
BRO-THER!
YIN!
AND THERE-FORE... YIN.


ALCHEMY IS A SCI-ENCE THAT SEEKS TO ATTAIN THE SUPREME TRUTH.
THAT IS WHY ALL OF OUR TEXTS ARE WRITTEN IN AN ARCANE CODE.


BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT ONLY THOSE WITH THE WIT AND SKILL TO SOLVE THE CODE HAVE THE RIGHT TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH.

...MASTER! PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ASK A QUESTION...
BRO-THER... YOU'VE BEEN ACTING STRANGE.
EX-CUSE ME...
I'M SORRY.
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING ALCHEMY COULD DO TO HELP PEOPLE?
WITH ALL THIS KNOWLEDGE WE HAVE OF MEDICINE AND CHEMISTRY ...
WHAT IS IT?

IS...
IS THAT SO...
THAT KNOWLEDGE IS THERE FOR US AND US ALONE.
THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING ALCHEMY IS TO ATTAIN THE TRUTH FOR ONE'S OWN SELF.
BRO-THER!
FOR AN AL-CHEMIST TO RUN ABOUT PRACTICING MEDICINE IS TANTAMOUNT TO HERESY.
...OUR FOREBEAR PARACEL-SUS ASKED MUCH THE SAME THING. HMPH... IF YOU ASK ME...

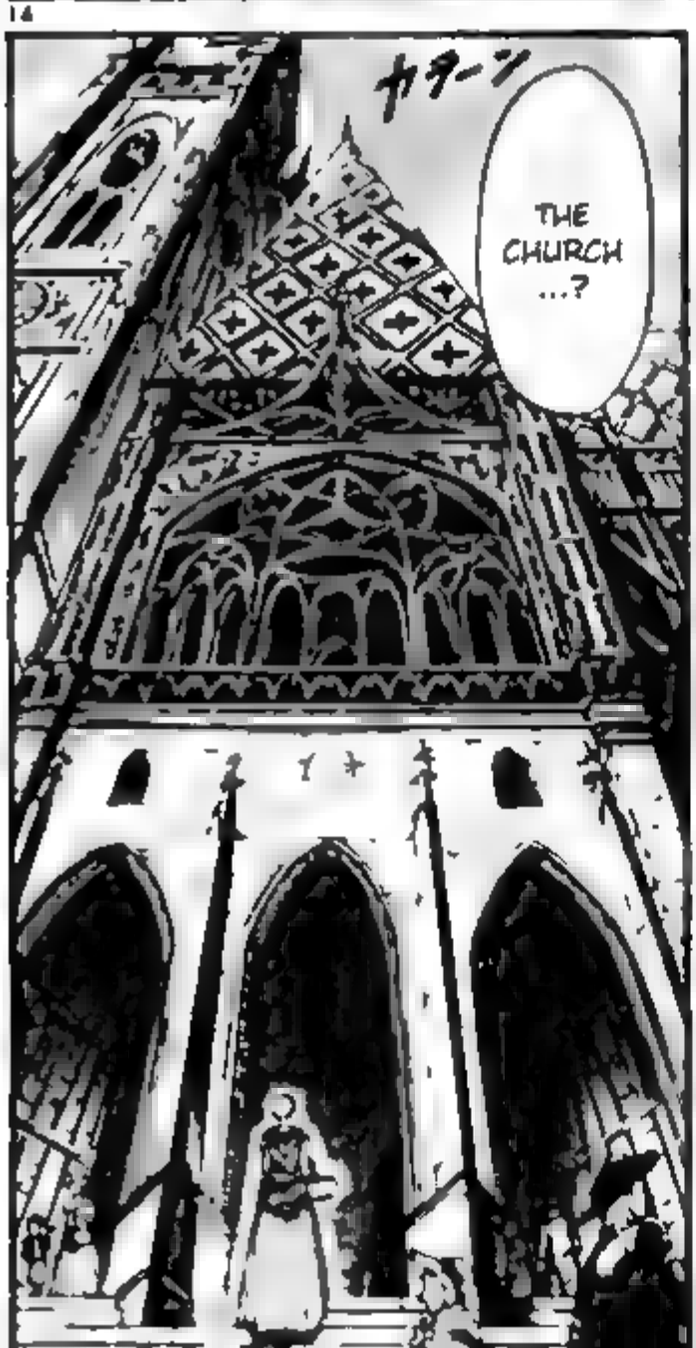
JIN?
BRO-THER...
WHAT OUR MASTER SAID WAS RIGHT.
WE CAN'T THINK ABOUT OTHER— AH!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE CONCEN-TRATING ON YOUR STUDIES.
JIN, OUR FIRST WISH WAS TO MAKE OUR DOLLS DANCE LIKE PEOPLE, WASN'T IT?
I'M THINKING OF GOING BACK TO OUR ORIGINAL GOAL...
A HUGE... MARION-ETTE?
WAH! WHAT'S THAT?
11
FOR OURSELVES ...
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S WHY WE'RE STUDYING ALCHEMY NOW. TO RESEARCH A WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THAT.

ALL OF IT ...
FOR OUR-SELVES ...
WHAT?
TO IMPROVE THE PUPPET TECHNIQUES OF THE BAI CLAN... TO ATTAIN THE SUPREME TRUTH...
JIN ...
IF IT'S A PATH THAT NO ONE ELSE WILL FOLLOW ...
WHAT IS THE POINT OF ILLUMI-NATING IT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, BRO-THER?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND ...
THAT'S... THAT'S NATURAL ISN'T IT...?
UNTIL NOW, I BELIEVED THAT MY OWN PATH WAS THE RIGHT ONE.
THAT I SHOULD STICK TO THAT PATH, AND THAT NO ONE ELSE'S PATH HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME.

BRO-THER ...
THAT "SOME-THING" WASN'T ANY-THING TO DO WITH FRAN-CINE ...?
I STARTED TO THINK THAT... AFTER SOMETHING HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY...
THAT NIGHT WHEN I WAS DRUNK... WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED?
WAIT A MINUTE ...
BRO-THER ...
.....
BRO-THER ...?
RIGHT ...?
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO BUTT IN AND STEAL HER...? THAT'S NOT FAIR...
...JIN, I DIDN'T MEAN IT LIKE THAT.
NO-THING!
WASN'T FRANCINE SUPPOSED TO FALL IN LOVE WITH ME...?
BUT... BRO-THER...

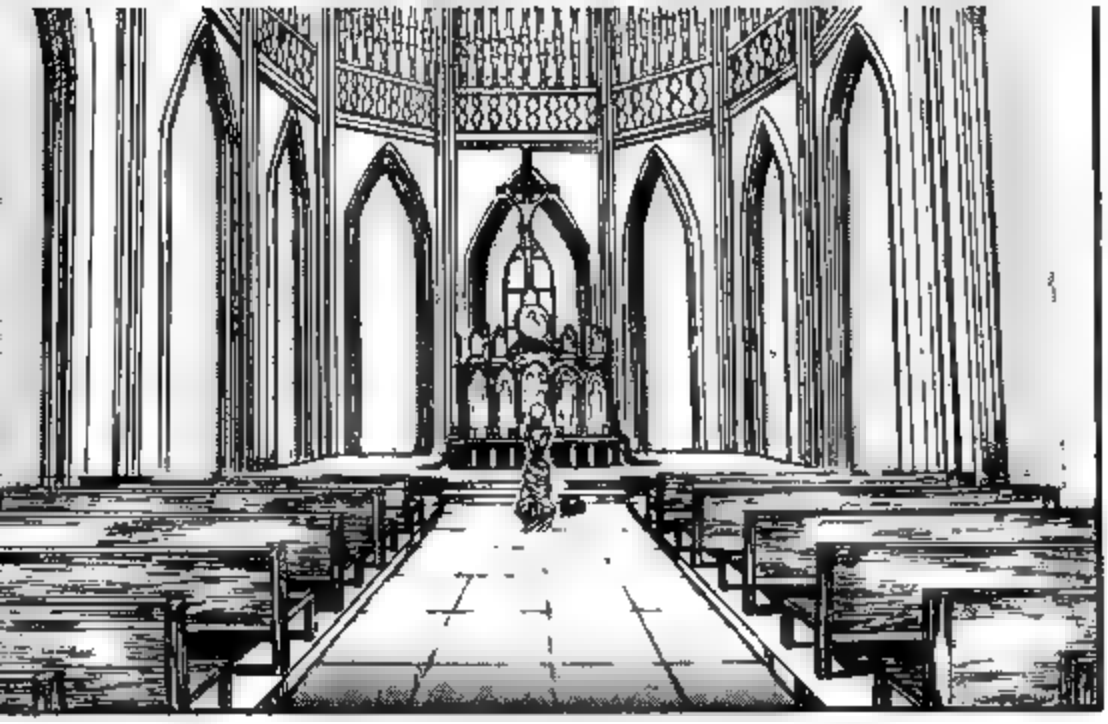
BRO-
THER
!!

THAT'S
NOT IT,
JIN.

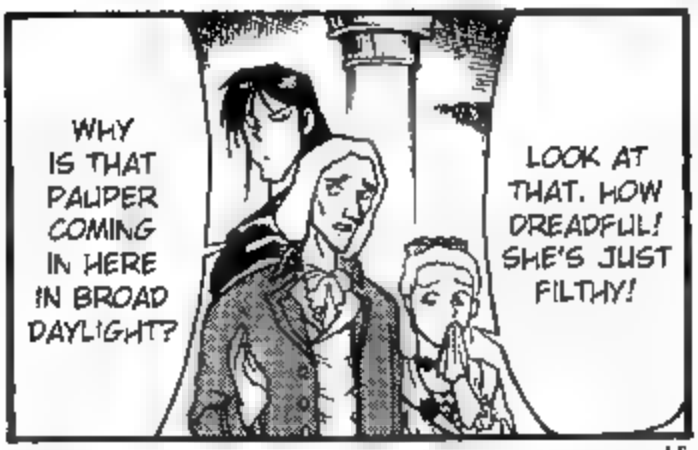

THE
CHURCH
...?

WELL, NO
HELPING IT
FOR NOW.
I'LL TRY
TO CLEAR
UP THE
MISUNDER-
STANDING
LATER.
EVEN
THOUGH
WE ALWAYS
GOT ALONG
SO WELL
BEFORE
..
I HAVEN'T
HEARD
A WORD
OUT OF
JIN SINCE
THEN...

!
THAT'S
FRAN-
CINE.



SHE MUST HAVE COME FOR A HANDOUT FROM THE CHURCH.
THEY SAY THE POOR ARE LACKING SPIRITUALLY AS WELL... SURELY SHE CAN'T BE SEEKING SALVATION FROM THE LORD?


WHY IS THAT PAUPER COMING IN HERE IN BROAD DAYLIGHT?
LOOK AT THAT. HOW DREADFUL! SHE'S JUST FILTHY!

THIS GIRL IS AN ANGEL ...
AN ANGEL ...
WHAT ... WERE YOU PRAYING FOR?
OH... MASTER YIN.
THANK YOU FOR THE OTHER DAY.

18

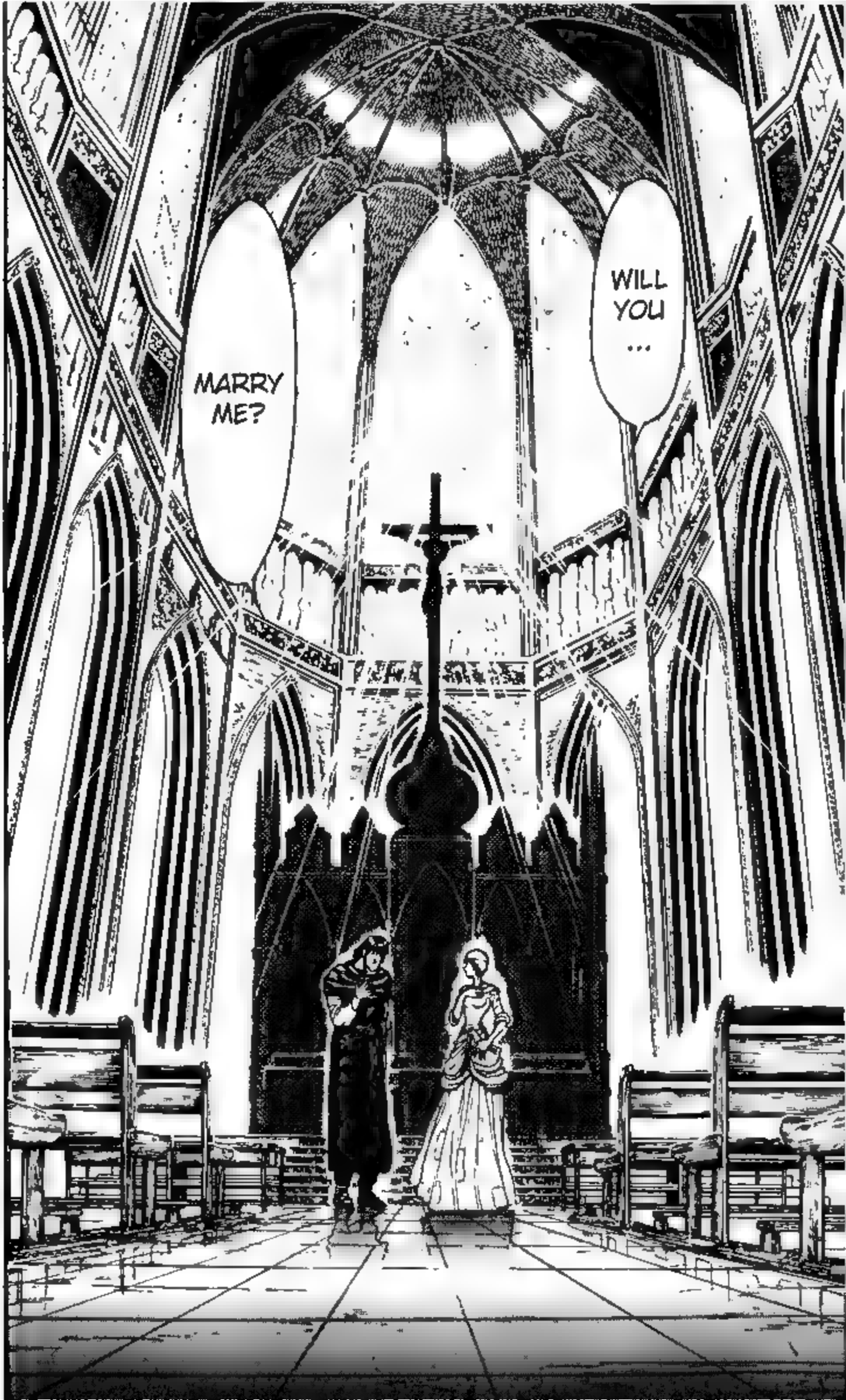
TO DISAPPEAR FROM THIS WORLD.
FOR ALL DISEASES ...
HOW EMBAR-RASSING ...
HEE HEE ...

HER EYES ARE FIXED ON OTHER PEOPLE.
HER OWN CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SO MISERABLE, BUT EVEN SO...

AND GENEROUS HEART.
WHAT A DEEPLY KIND...!

FOR THIS GIRL IS...
F... FRAN-CINE...
WHAT I FEEL

AHAHA... YOU ALWAYS LOOK A LITTLE GRIM, BUT YOUR FACE IS EVEN SCARIER THAN USUAL.
WHAT'S WRONG, MASTER YIN?


MARRY ME?
WILL YOU ...

translation by funnjraba tumblr com

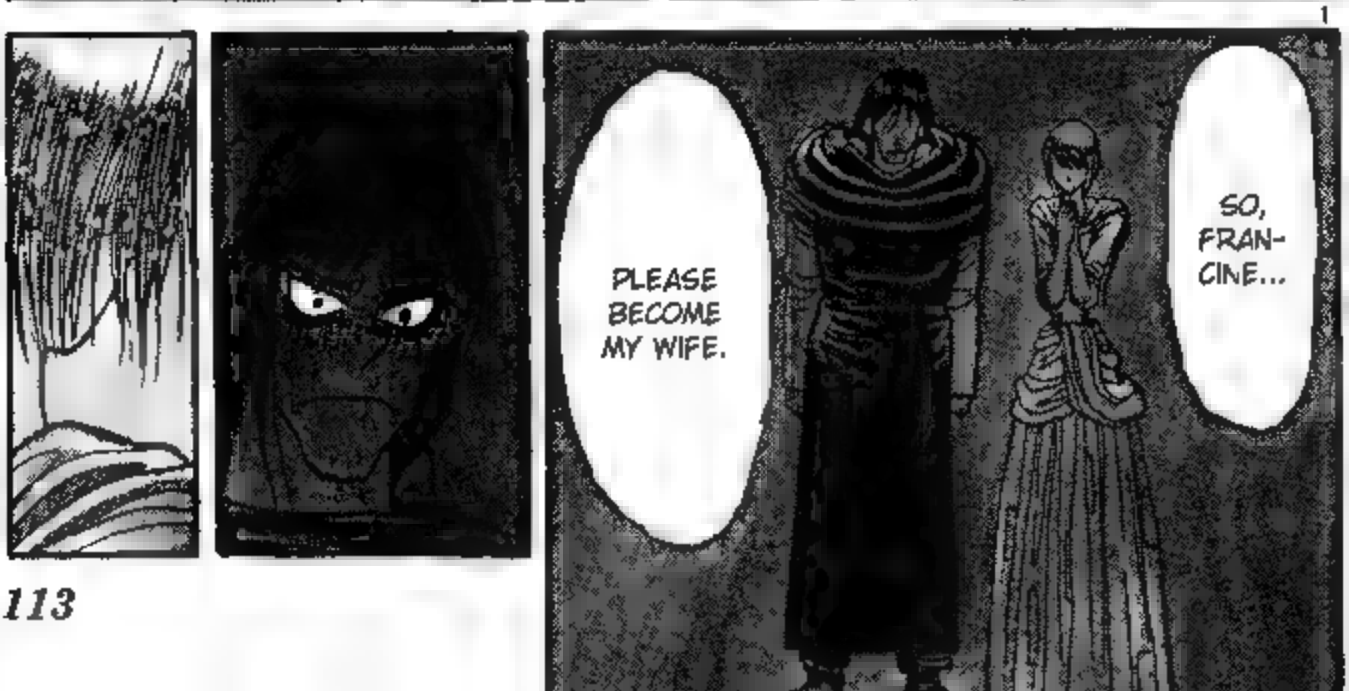
These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves

Act 9 HEAVEN AND HELL

1

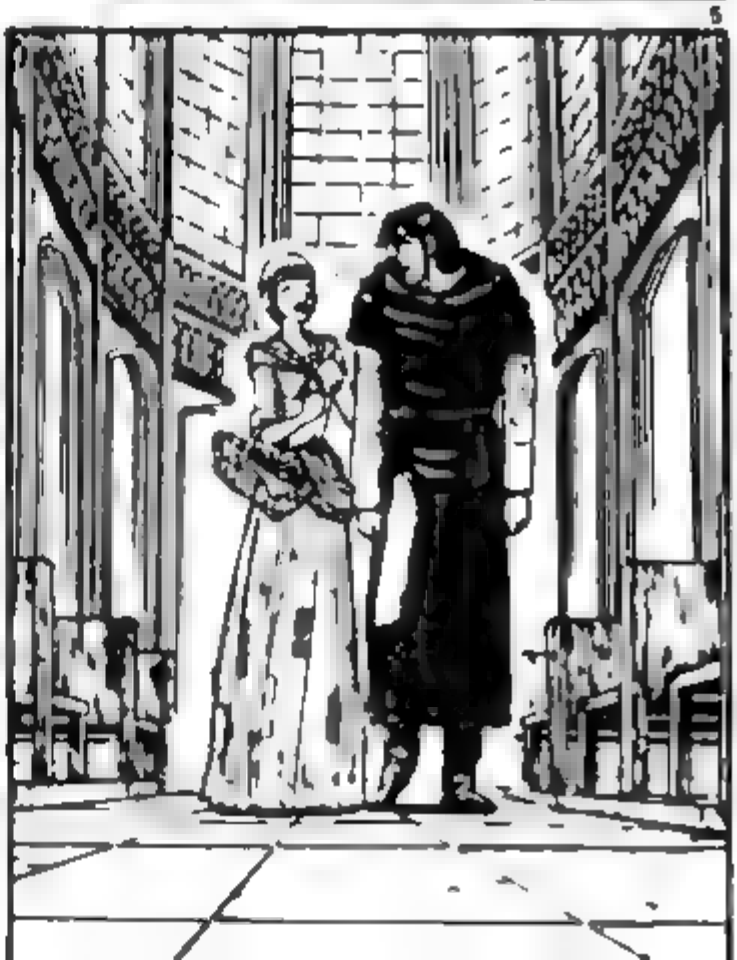


第9幕
HEAVEN AND HELL

THIS KISS SHALL BE PROOF OF YOUR OATH, AND HENCEFORTH YOU SHALL BE...

MAN AND WIFE.

OH...?
WHAT'S THIS?
I CRIED A LITTLE!



6

カラーン
カラーン
カラーン
カラーン
IN PRAGUE'S GOLDEN ALLEY...
FROM THE HOUSE OF A CERTAIN ALCHEMIST ...
THAT NIGHT, AN APPRENTICE VANISHED...

TRA TRA TRA

BIG SIS IS GONE ...!
WAAAH!!

AND HE TOOK BIG SIS AWAY...!!
A MAN DRESSED THE SAME AS YOU CAME...

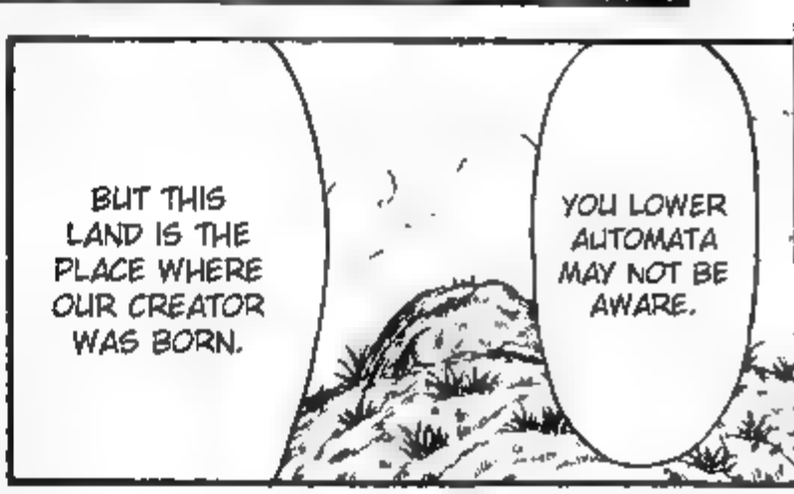
BAI JIN, HIS YOUNGER BROTHER...

THAT APPRENTICE ALCHEMIST WAS...

GRRR
MM. LISTEN A LITTLE LONGER ...

ヒョオオオ

HA-HAH!
DO YOU KNOW THIS, CHINA-HOU?


BUT THIS LAND IS THE PLACE WHERE OUR CREATOR WAS BORN.
YOU LOWER AUTOMATA MAY NOT BE AWARE.

TO SHOW THE RESPECT AND GRATITUDE WE HAVE FOR OUR CREATOR.
AND SO, EVERY 50 YEARS, OUR MIDNIGHT CIRCUS COMES HERE.

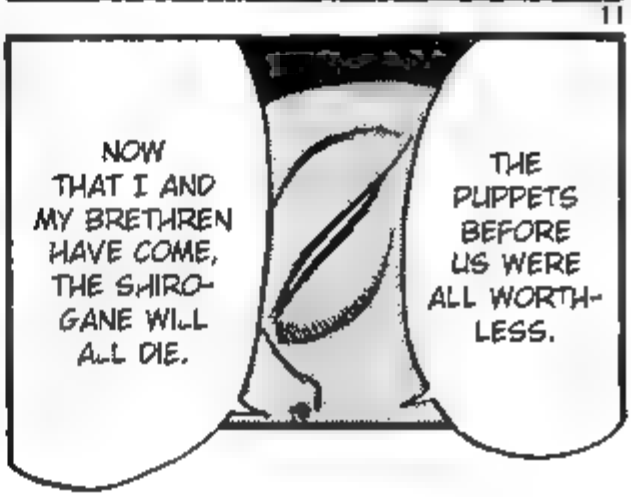
MASTER PANTA-LONE!

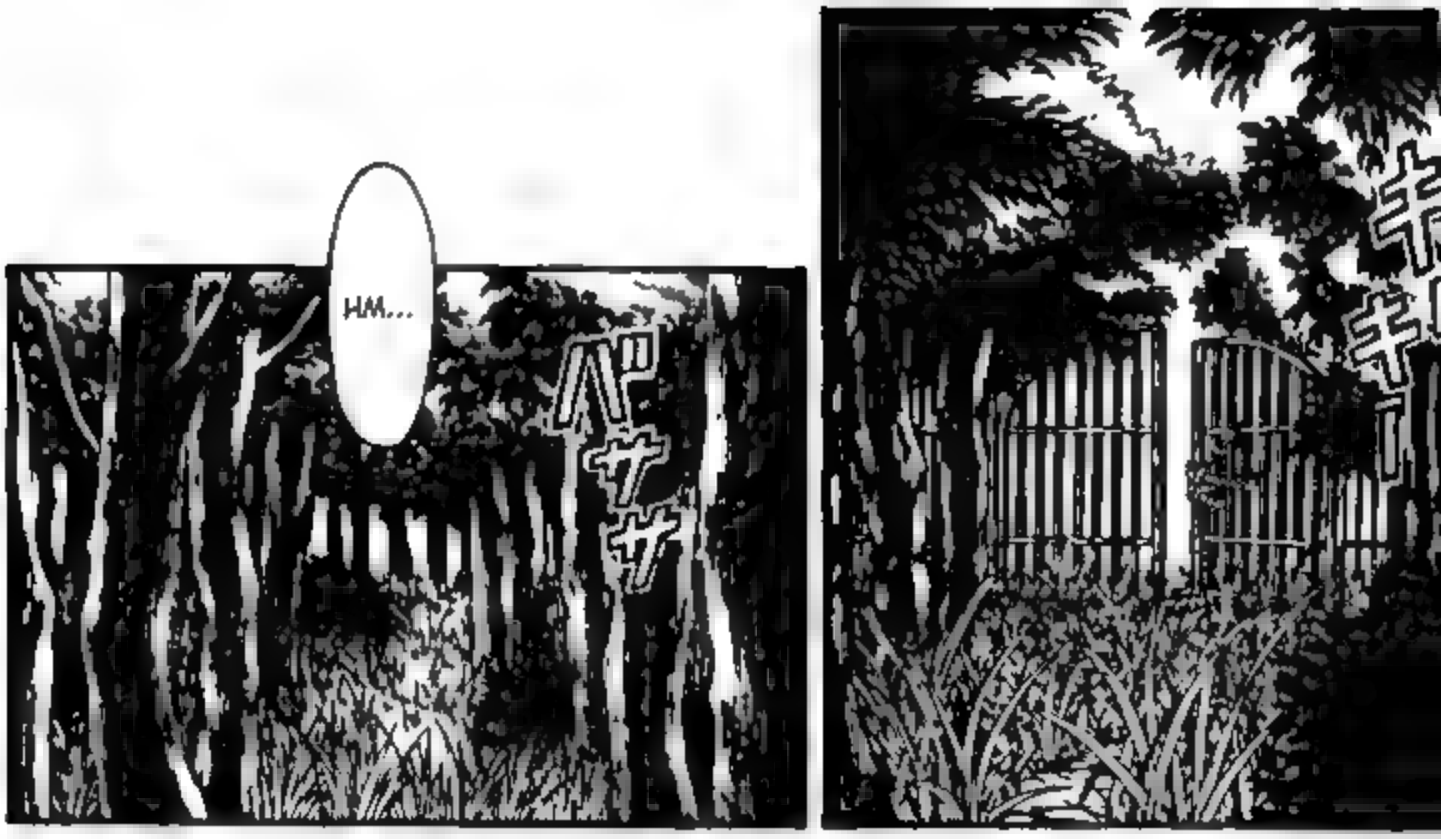
THE CROW FOLLOWED THEIR TRAIL. THE INTELLIGENCE IS CERTAIN, MASTER PANTALONE.

WE CAME HERE SEVERAL MONTHS AGO... I DID NOT THINK TO BE RETURNING SO SOON.

LET US FIND THEM!

YES, I KNOW... WELL THEN, SHALL WE GO TO MEET THEM RIGHT AWAY?

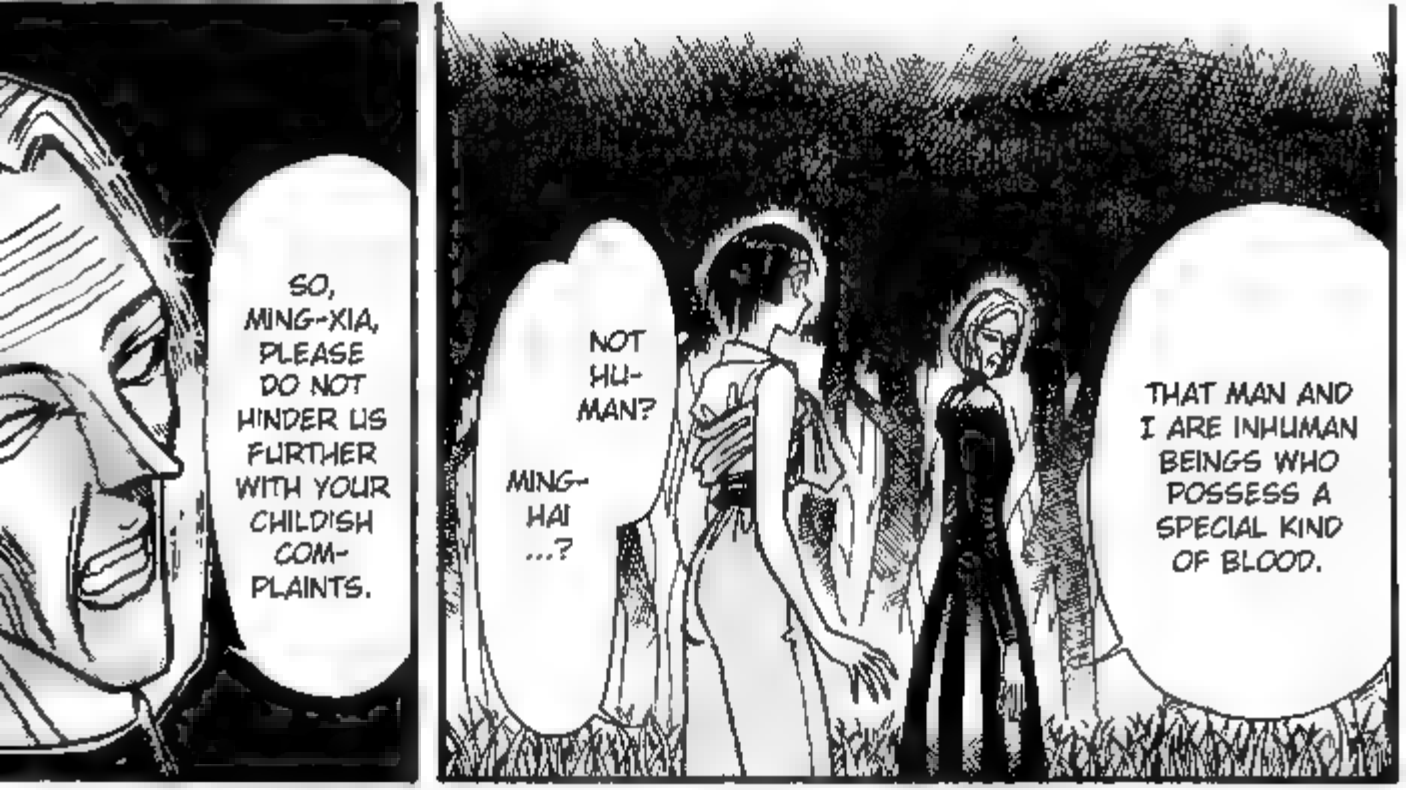

NOW THAT I AND MY BRETHREN HAVE COME, THE SHIRO-GANE WILL ALL DIE.
THE PUPPETS BEFORE US WERE ALL WORTH-LESS.

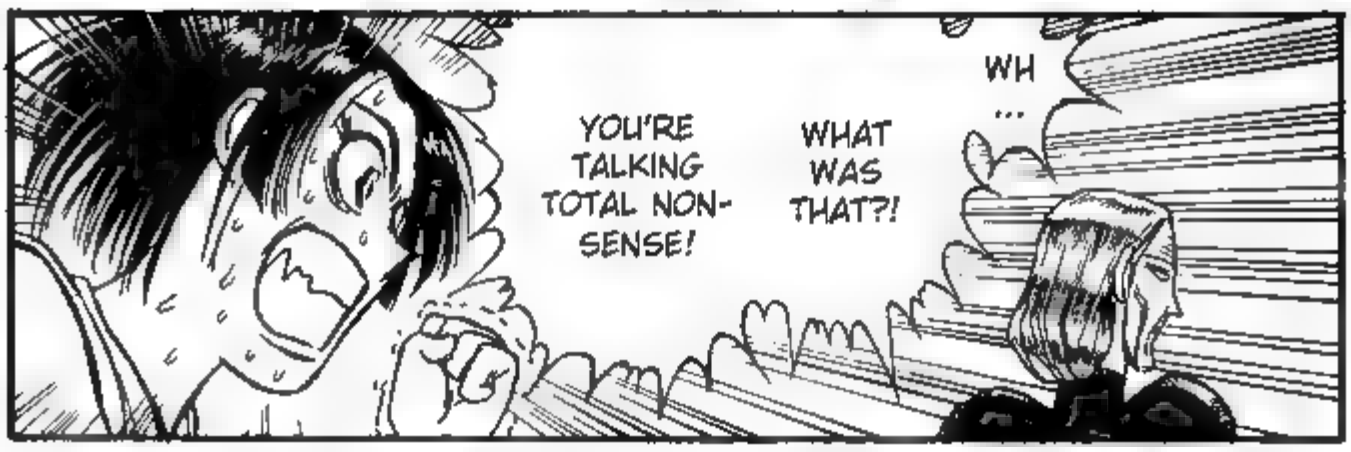

HM...
ザサ
ザサ

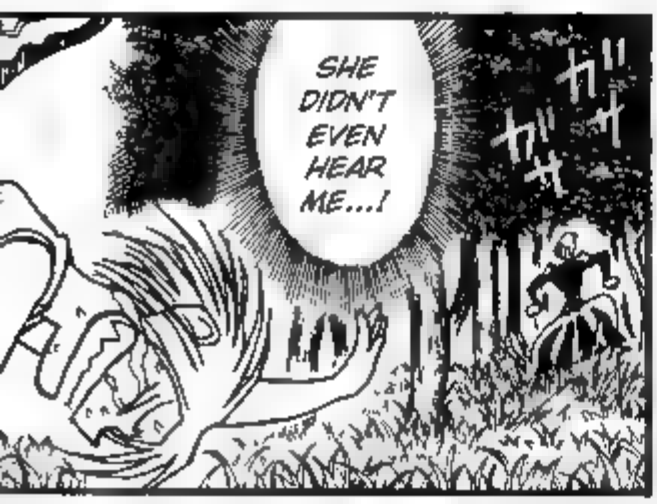
THAT TREE OVER THERE IS MARKED WITH SOME OF NARUMI'S BLOOD.
BLOOD ?
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHICH WAY WANG AND MING-HAI WENT?!
WAIT A MINUTE, LUCILLE!
THIS WAY.
ガザザ

THAT IS THE AQUA VITAE DISSOLVED IN HIS BLOOD.
I SUPPOSE YOU WOULDN'T KNOW, YOUNG LADY...

YEP, IT'S BLOOD, ALL RIGHT.
BUT WHY'S IT SHINING EVEN THOUGH IT'S ALL DRIED UP?


SO, MING-XIA, PLEASE DO NOT HINDER US FURTHER WITH YOUR CHILDISH COM-PLAINTS.
NOT HU-MAN?
MING-HAI ...?
THAT MAN AND I ARE INHUMAN BEINGS WHO POSSESS A SPECIAL KIND OF BLOOD.


YOU'RE TALKING TOTAL NON-SENSE!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WH ...


SHE DIDN'T EVEN HEAR ME...!

LUCILLE, YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW I FEE-
HE'S THE ONE WHO INFECTED MY DAD WITH ZONAPHA SYNDROME! WHAT'S WRONG WITH HATING HIM?!

13

MING-HAI!
HEY!
HEY.

HEY, WAIT UP...!

YOU DOZED OFF A WHILE AGO. ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING ?!
MASTER IS READING THIS FOR YOU!

LET US CONTINUE, THEN.
ぱし
OKAY ...
IF YOU SAY SO, MASTER ...

IT'S ALL RIGHT, WANG. YOU ARE HERE TO LISTEN EVEN IF MING-HAI IS NOT.

YIN SET OUT ON A JOURNEY TO FIND THEM.

IT SEEMED THEY HAD FLED TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

BUT THE TWO WERE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

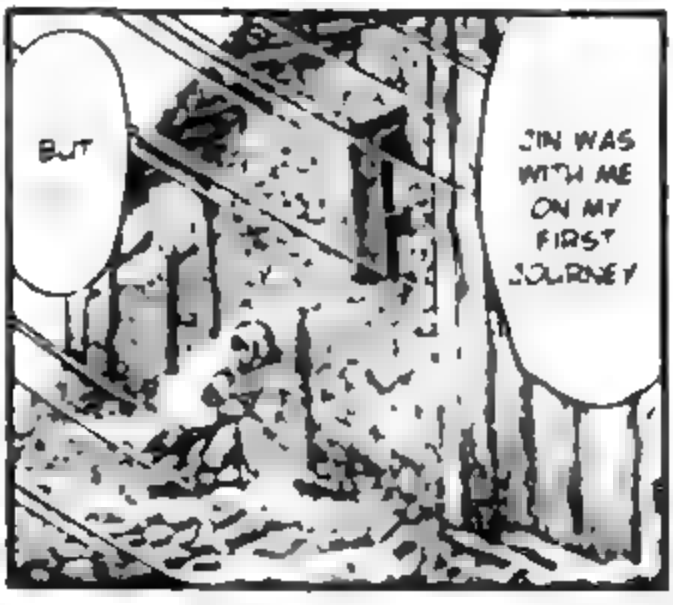
YIN LOOKED ACROSS THE ENTIRE COUNTRY FOR FRANCINE AND JIN.

!
LONG ...
AND ...
THE JOURNEY WAS PAINFUL ...
ABSO-LUTELY ... EVERY-WHERE ...
I SEAR-CHED ...
JOUR-NEY ...
IT WAS ... A LONG ...

WH ...
WHAT ?!
WANG... MING-HAI SEEMS TO KNOW THE STORY FROM HERE ON.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?!
H-HEY, MING-HAI...

I SEAR-CHED
FOR FRAN-CINE
AND JIN

THIS TIME I WAS ALONE


BUT
JIN WAS WITH ME ON MY FIRST JOURNEY

I SEAR-CHED

AND I SEARCHED ...
AND I SEARCHED ...
I SEARCHED FOR NINE YEARS...
ALONE ...

OVER THAT WAY.
BUT ...
A STRANGE MAN AND WOMAN? YES...
THEN, IN THE QUIBERON REGION OF FRANCE...

IT WAS THE SPRING OF THE NINTH YEAR SINCE THAT DAY IN PRAGUE.

translation by funnjraba tumblr com

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves

Act 10

End Of The Dream

IN A REGION OF FRANCE CALLED QUIBERON ...
M-MING-HAI... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WANG... THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES PAST OUR UNDERSTANDING, MING-HAI HAS INHERITED ...
THE MEMORIES OF YIN, THE HERO OF OUR STORY... LET'S LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

A MAN FROM THE EAST AND A WOMAN CALLED FRANCINE...? YES, THEY'RE HERE.
A PEASANT TOLD ME...
IN KROHG, A SMALL VILLAGE IN THAT REGION...

THEY WANDERED HERE ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO...
AND SETTLED DOWN IN THAT OLD MANSION.

2

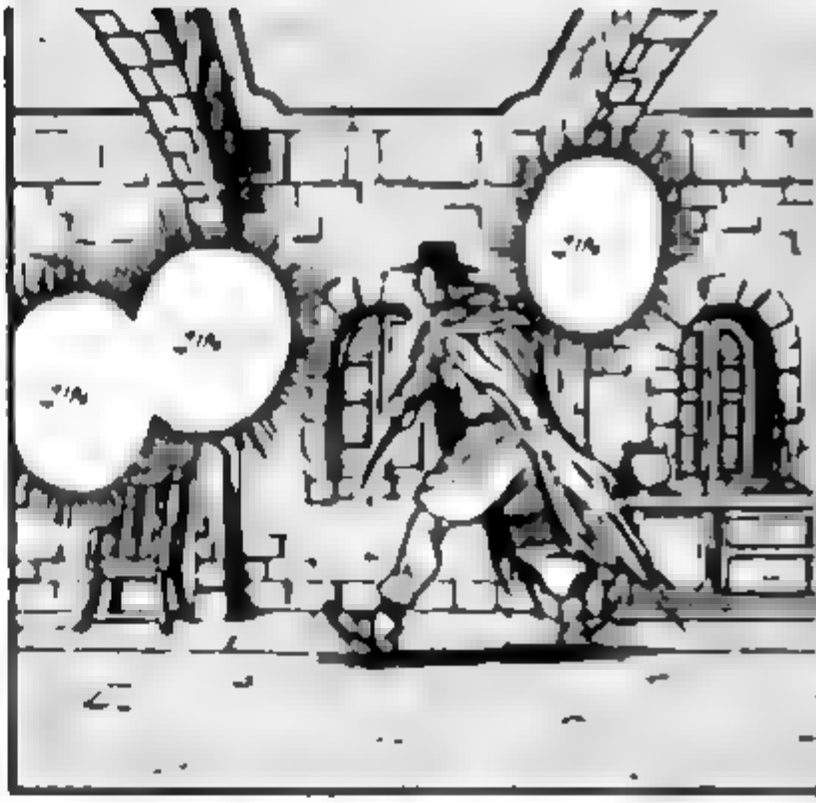
THE PEASANT'S VOICE!
I DIDN'T HEAR...
ブブブブ

AND BESIDES ... THAT WOMAN IS ...

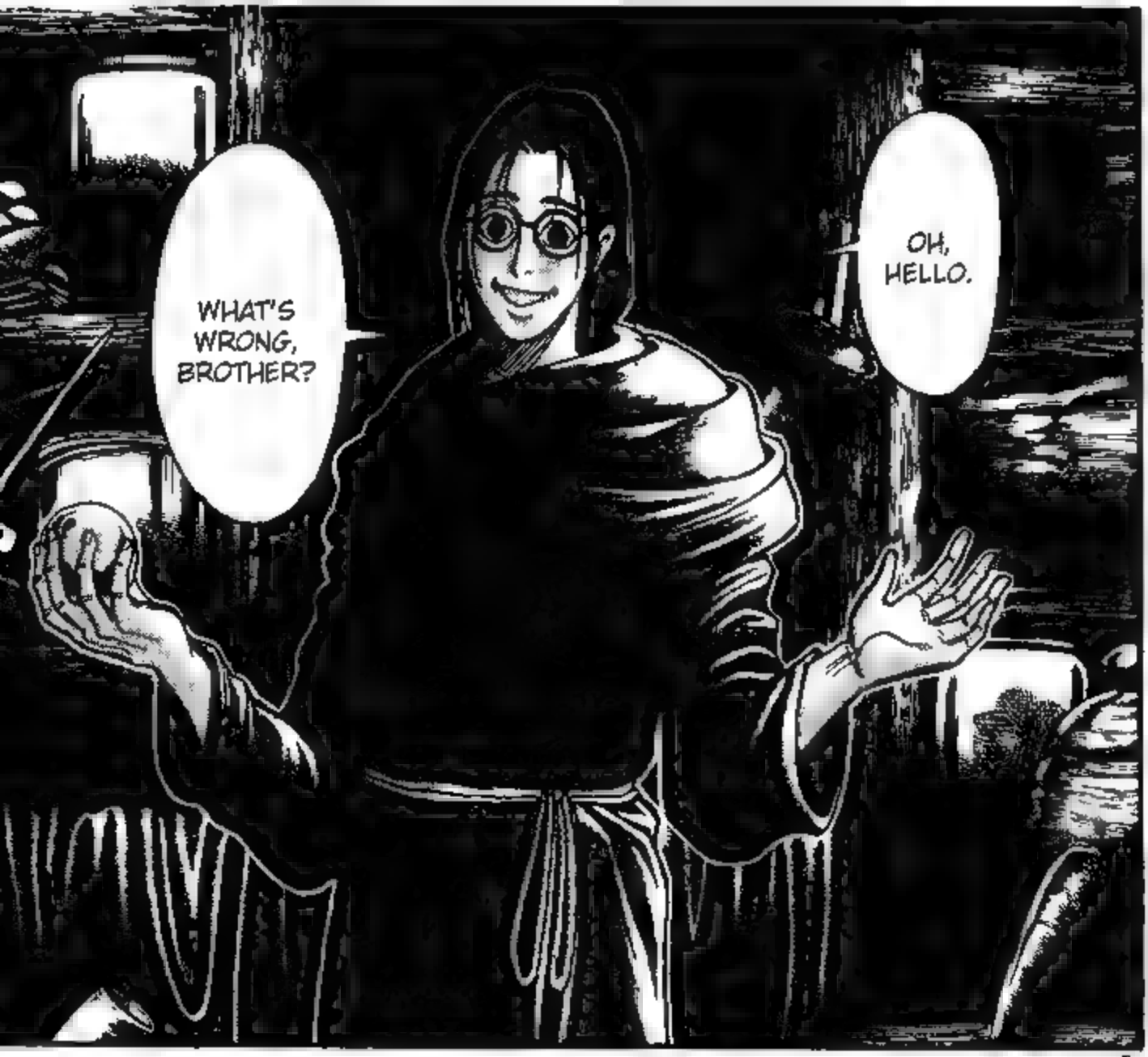
オオオ
IT'S DANGEROUS ...
AH, SIR!

JIN... MY BROTHER.
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU ...
YOU STOLE FRANCINE FROM ME AND DISAPPEARED ...
ON THAT DAY NINE YEARS AGO
I'VE CAUGHT YOU!
I HEARD NOTHING AT ALL.
YOU WILL DISCOVER THE EXTENT OF MY RAGE!!
AND NOW ...
MY NINE YEAR JOURNEY HAD TRANSFORMED ME INTO A BEAST.
THERE WAS RAGE... AND MY DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE AGAINST JIN. THAT WAS IT.
ANY THOUGHTS OF OTHERS HAD VANISHED...
AT THAT MOMENT I WAS THINKING NEITHER OF MY BROTHER... NOR OF FRANCINE.

I'M GONNA KILL YOU!!


JIN
JIN
JIN

JIN ...!!

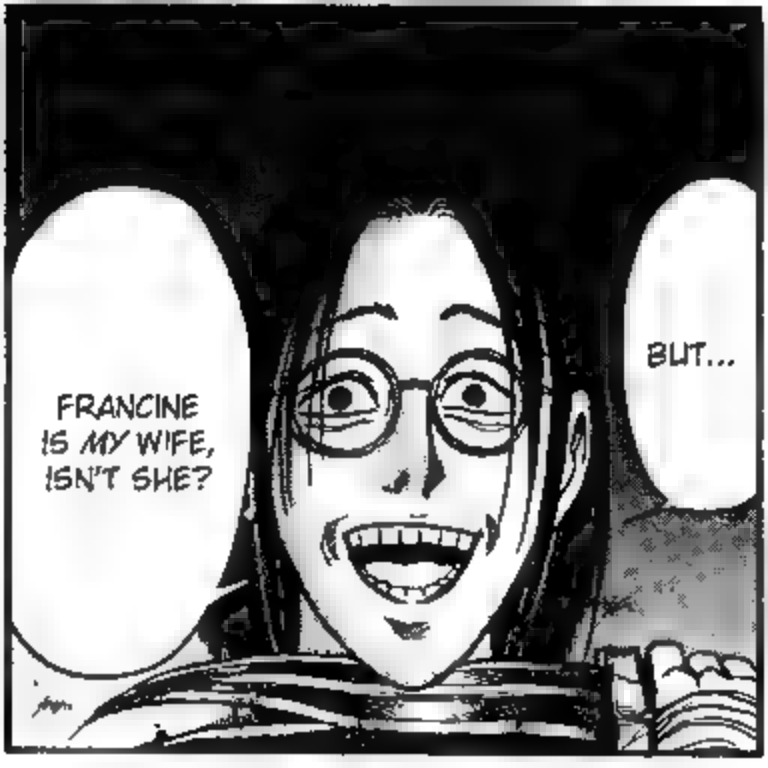

WHAT'S WRONG, BROTHER?
OH, HELLO.

I'VE SEARCHED FOR NINE YEARS SO I COULD MAKE YOU PAY!
YOU! YOU STOLE MY WIFE FRANCINE AND RAN!

YOU'RE HURTING ME, BROTHER. WHAT'S MADE YOU SO ANGRY?

"WHAT'S WRONG" ...?

WHAT'S WRONG ...?!


FRANCINE IS MY WIFE, ISN'T SHE?
BUT...

SO DON'T WORRY, BROTHER. EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT.
I'VE FORGIVEN FRANCINE.

BUT, YOU KNOW, MARRIED COUPLES HAVE TO FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER FOR ALL KINDS OF THINGS, DON'T THEY?
FUFU... IT'S NOT THAT I'VE NEVER WONDERED WHAT MY WIFE MIGHT HAVE DONE BEFORE OUR MARRIAGE ...

BRO-THER ...
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH ...

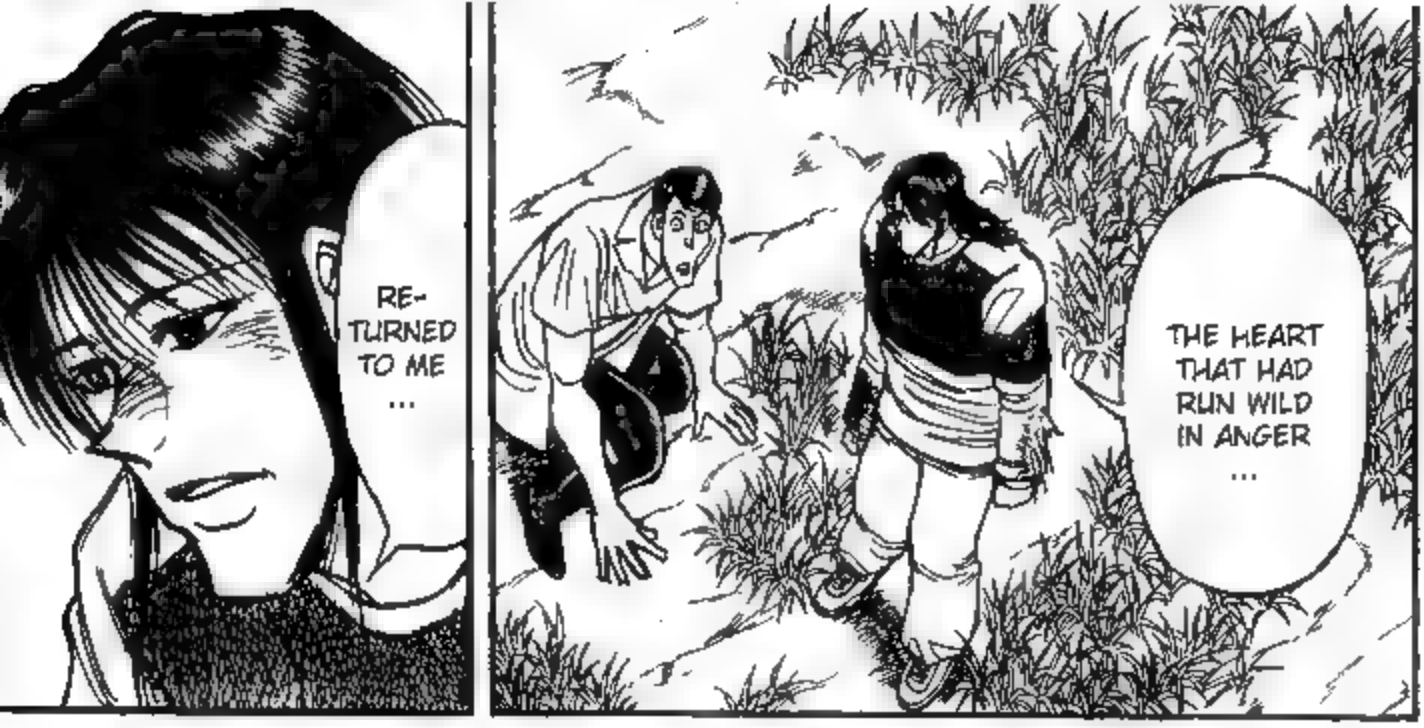
HEH HEH HEH ...
J-JIN... YOU ASSHOLE ...

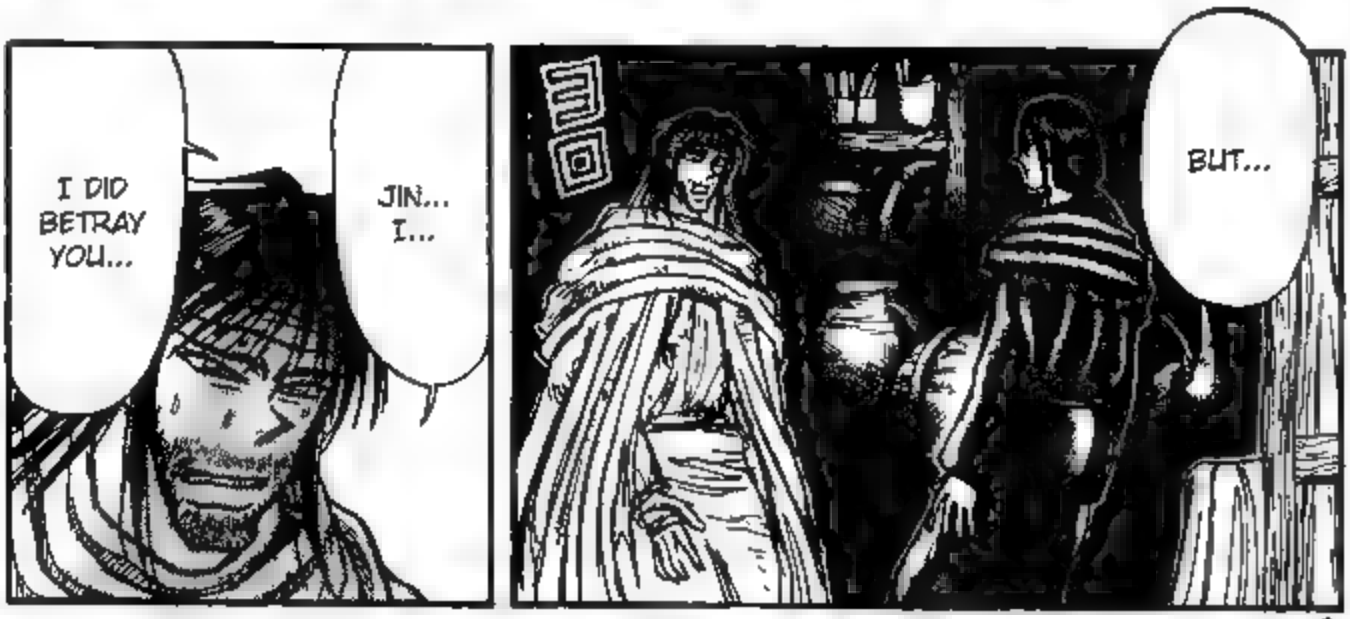
JIN ...
I WAS THERE, BRO-THER.
YOU *SAID* YOU WEREN'T INTERESTED ...!
BUT IN THE END YOU TOOK HERRR...!
WHYYY...? WHY DID YOU BETRAY ME?
FRANCINE WAS *MINE*, WASN'T SHE?

I WAS IN THE CHURCH THAT DAY ...!

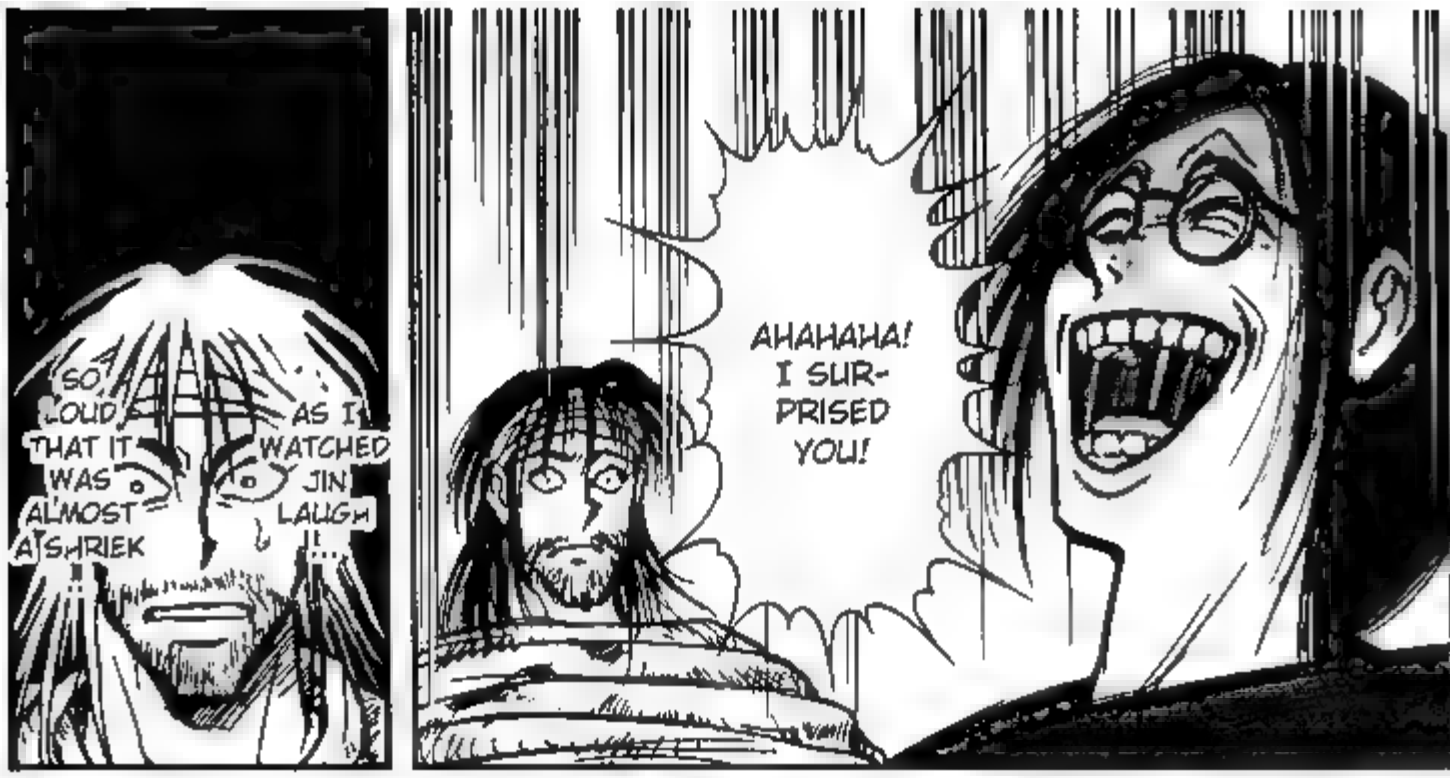
THE DE-MON IN ME VANI-SHED.
AT THOSE WORDS...

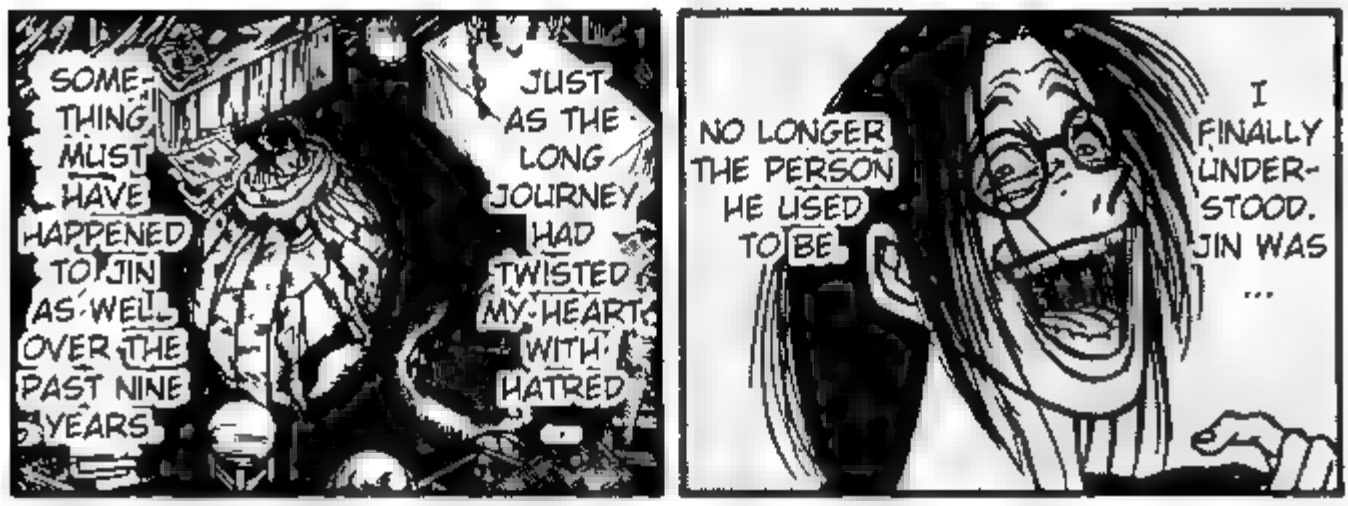
ポロ


RE-
TURNED
TO ME
...
THE HEART
THAT HAD
RUN WILD
IN ANGER
...


I DID
BETRAY
YOU...
JIN...
I...
BUT...

FWEHEHE, I
SURPRISED
YOU.
THAT'S
OKAY,
BROTHER.


SO LOUD THAT IT WAS ALMOST A SHRIEK
AS I WATCHED JIN LAUGH ...
AHAHAHA! I SURPRISED YOU!

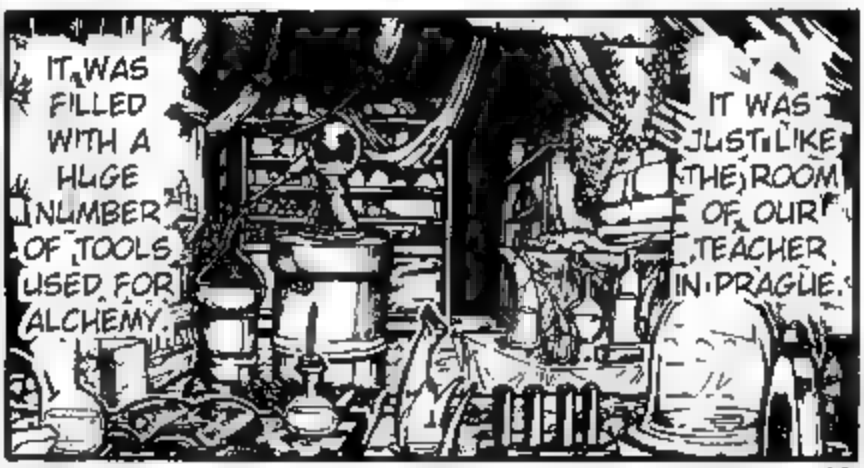

SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO JIN AS WELL OVER THE PAST NINE YEARS
JUST AS THE LONG JOURNEY HAD TWISTED MY HEART WITH HATRED
NO LONGER THE PERSON HE USED TO BE
I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD. JIN WAS ...

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO FRANCINE?!
JIN ...
!!

WHERE IS SHE, JIN?!
I'VE BEEN STUDYING ALCHEMY HERE, TOO!
THAT'S RIGHT, BROTHER. LOOK AT THIS!

IT WAS AS HE SAID.
AND I HAVE AN ATHANOR TOO.
LOOK, HERE'S A PHILOSOPHER'S EGG.

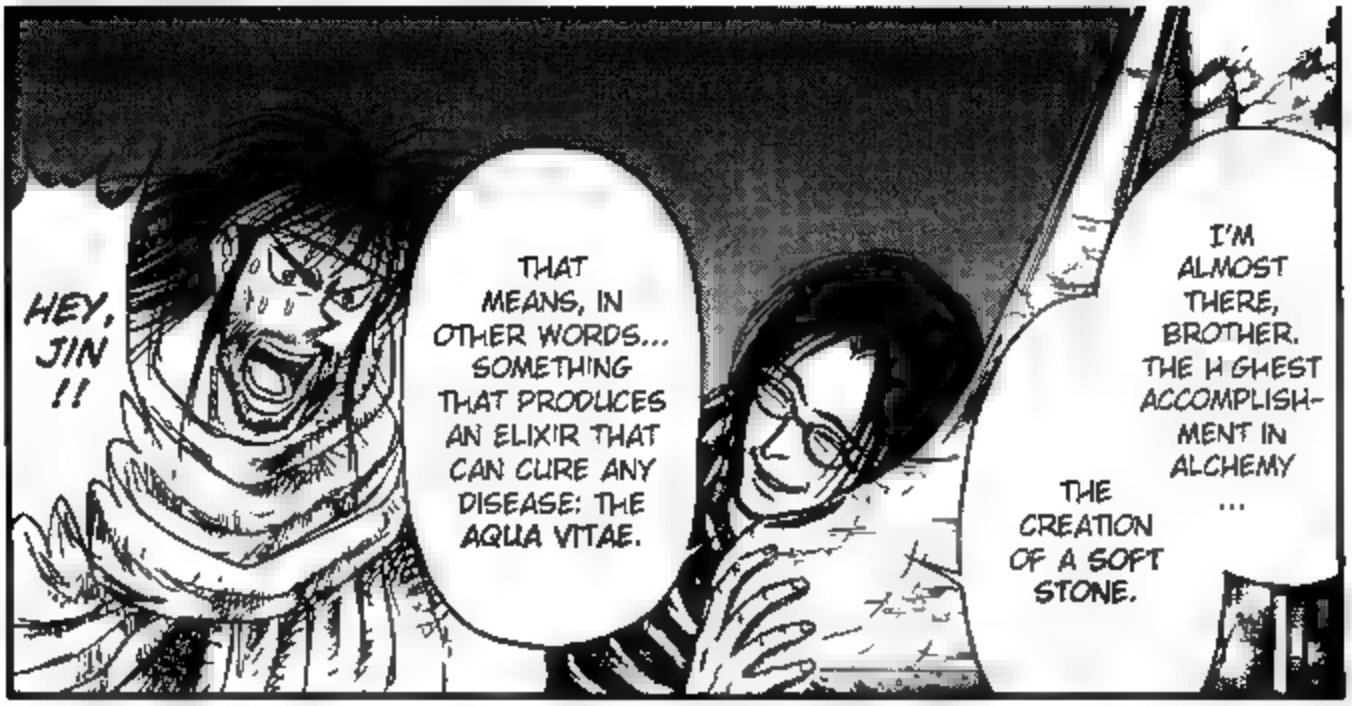
JIN! ARE YOU LISTENING?!


IT WAS FILLED WITH A HUGE NUMBER OF TOOLS USED FOR ALCHEMY.
IT WAS JUST LIKE THE ROOM OF OUR TEACHER IN PRAGUE.

F-FIX ...?

IS FRANCINE SICK?!

I'M GOING ... TO FIX FRANCINE.
I'M TELLING YOU, BROTHER.
I'M MAKING MEDICINE.


HEY, JIN !!
THAT MEANS, IN OTHER WORDS... SOMETHING THAT PRODUCES AN ELIXIR THAT CAN CURE ANY DISEASE: THE AQUA VITAE.
I'M ALMOST THERE, BROTHER. THE HIGHEST ACCOMPLISHMENT IN ALCHEMY ...
THE CREATION OF A SOFT STONE.

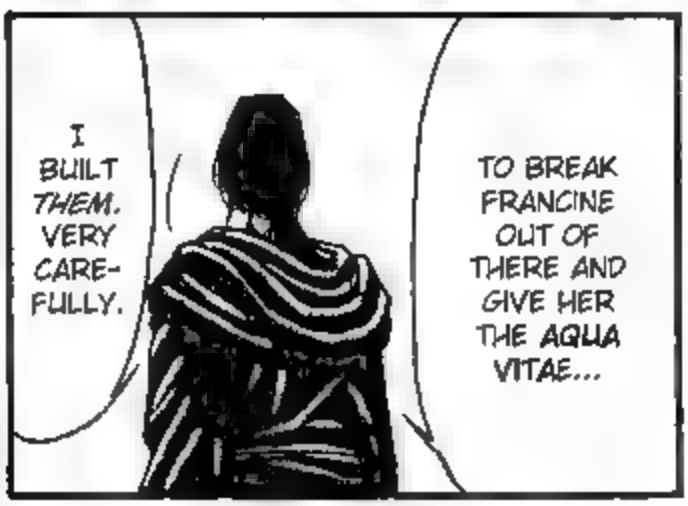
"OUT OF"...? IS SHE LOCKED UP SOMEWHERE?!
I'LL BE ABLE TO GET HER OUT OF THERE.
AND SO, BY THE TIME OF THE NEXT CARNIVAL... THE ONE SHE LOVES SO MUCH...

IT'S ALL RIGHT, BROTHER.
WHERE IS SHE?! WHERE'S FRANCINE ?!

DISEASES ARE SCARY. IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING INFECTIOUS, YOU HAVE TO BE QUARANTINED ...
THAT'S RIGHT ...

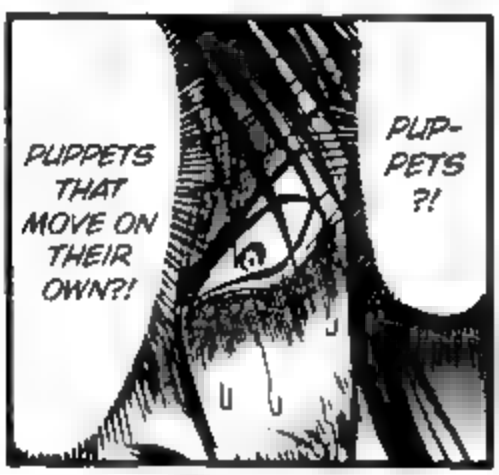
12

WHAT?
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, LITTLE ONES?


I BUILT *THEM.* VERY CAREFULLY.
TO BREAK FRANCINE OUT OF THERE AND GIVE HER THE AQUA VITAE...

KLIK
KLIK

OF COURSE, THEY'RE NOT FINISHED YET.
WHAT'S WRONG? THIS WAS OUR DREAM, WASN'T IT?


PUPPETS THAT MOVE ON THEIR OWN?!
PUP-PETS ?!

GAH!

GEH!
WELL, BRO-THER -?

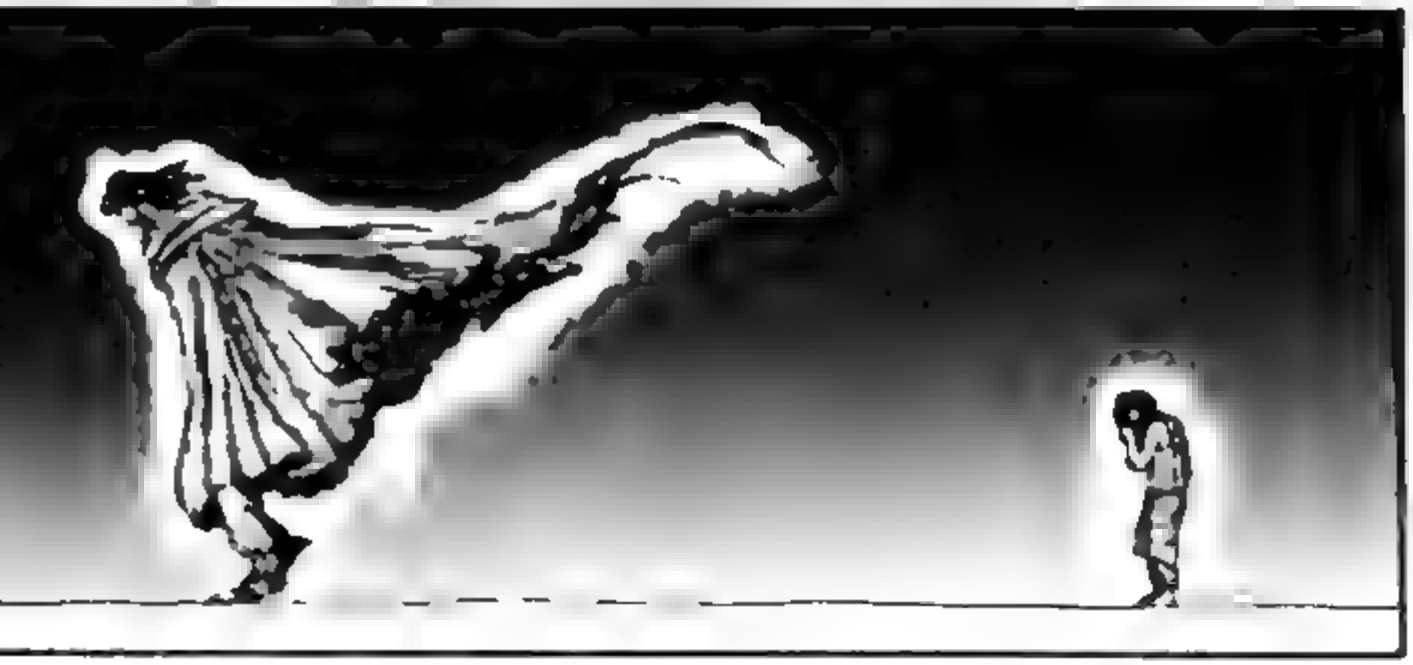
WHERE FRANCINE IS.
TELL ME...
JIN... I'M BEGGING YOU.

THE VILLAGERS PUT HER THERE... DAMN IT...
...SHE'S JUST OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE... IN A RUNDOWN OLD SHACK...

PLEASE ... JIN!

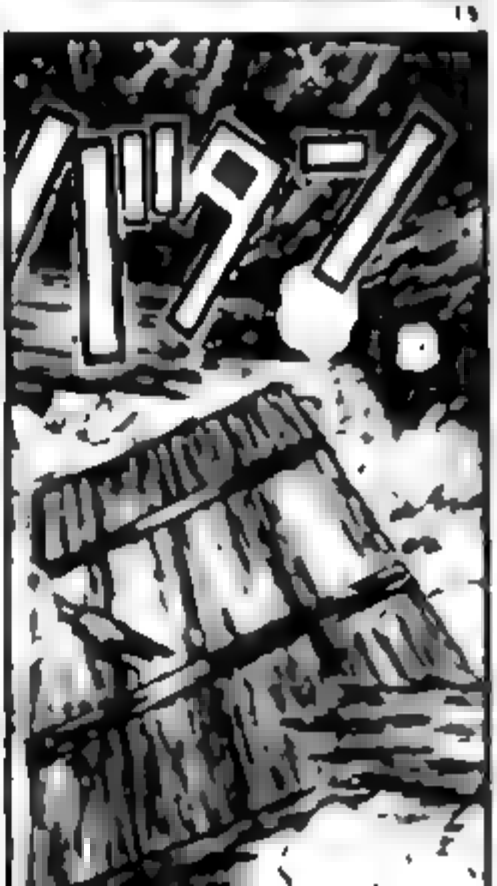
BRO-THERRR ...

WHY DID YOU BETRAY ME?
WHYYY ...?



ヒョオオオ

ハ
ハ


ドカーン

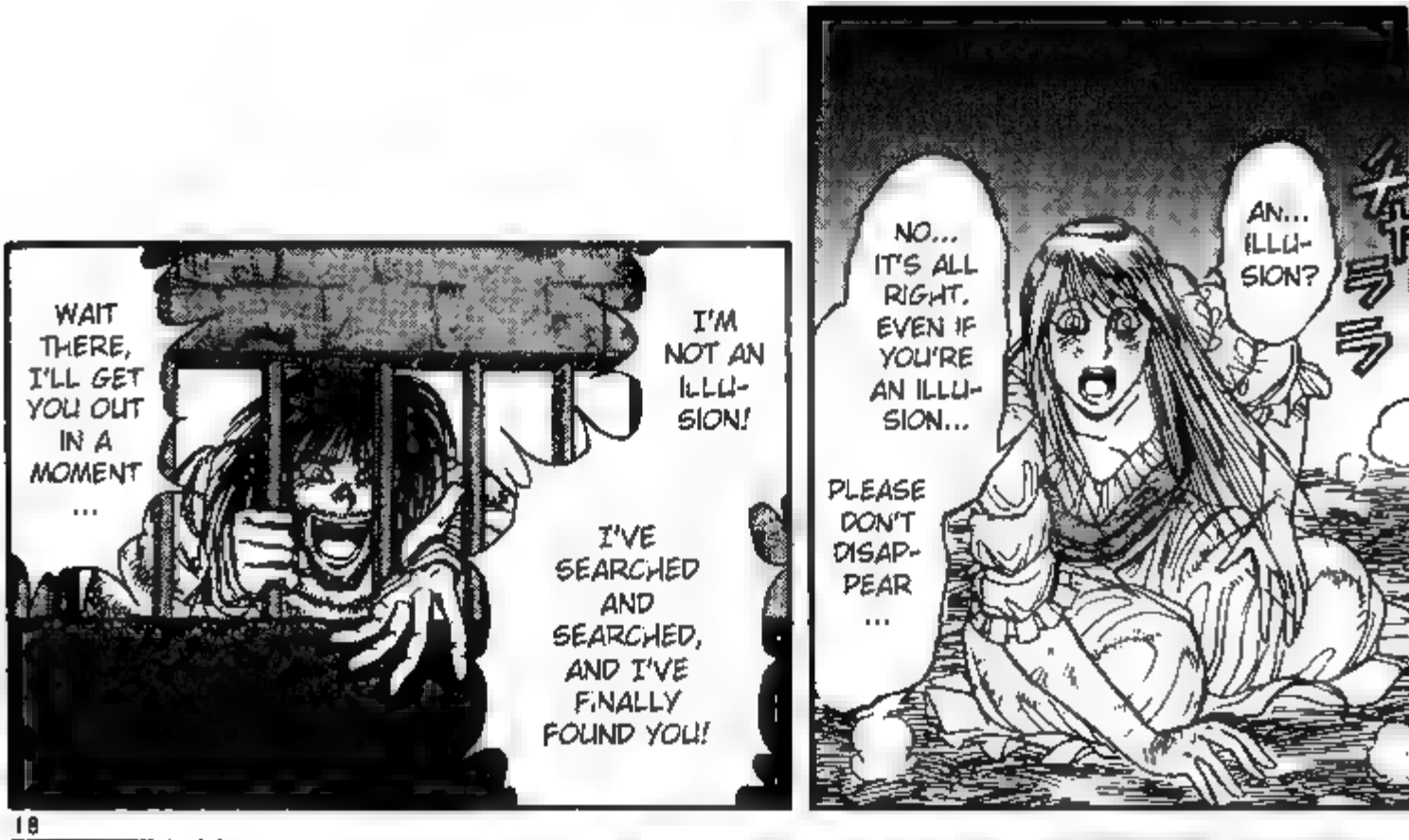
...EXCUSE ME... WHOEVER YOU ARE...

TURN AROUND ...
YOU SHOULDN'T GET ANY CLOSER.

F... FRAN- CINE...

AND THEN GO WASH YOUR HANDS AND RINSE YOUR MOUTH... PLEASE...

IM-
POSSI-
BLE...
IT'S
...
AH...
NO..
IT
CAN'T
BE...
!
IT'S
YIN!!
FRAN-
CINE,
IT'S
ME!
17
YI...
YIN...
AH...
チャラ


WAIT THERE, I'LL GET YOU OUT IN A MOMENT ...
I'M NOT AN ILLU-SION!
I'VE SEARCHED AND SEARCHED, AND I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU!
AN... ILLU-SION?
NO... IT'S ALL RIGHT. EVEN IF YOU'RE AN ILLU-SION...
PLEASE DON'T DISAP-PEAR ...

THIS IS FARE-WELL.
THIS IS IT.
BUT ...

THANK YOU, O LORD...
FOR GRANTING MY FINAL WISH.

AHAHA... I SAW MASTER YIN AGAIN ...!

FRAN-CINE, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?!
"FINAL" ...?

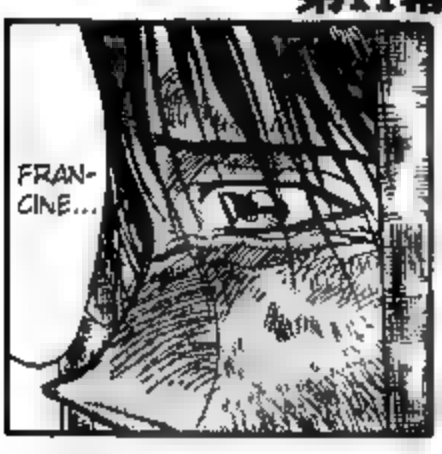
translation by funnjraba tumblr com

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves

第11幕 柔らかい石 誕生



Act 11 Birth Of The Soft Stone

第11幕 柔らかい石誕生

OVER HERE, FRANCINE! LET ME SEE YOUR FACE!
PEOPLE ALWAYS WANT TO PROTECT THEIR OWN FAMILIES

I'M SORRY
I . GOT SICK..
I WAS SO HAPPY THAT .. I FORGOT.
IT'S BETTER . IF YOU DON'T COME NEAR ME...
. I DON'T WANT TO INFECT YOU...
4
IN EUROPE, THERE WAS ALWAYS FEAR OF THE BLACK DEATH, SMALL-POX, AND WHOOPING COUGH.
BUT THIS IS FARE-WELL.
I'M SOR-RY.
SO ...

IT WAS PROBABLY OUT OF THAT FEAR AND SUPERSTITION...
THAT THE VILLAGERS OF KROHG ISOLATED FRANCINE WHEN SHE GREW ILL.
BACK THEN, IN RURAL AREAS WHERE CONDITIONS WERE UNSANITARY AND NO ONE HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF MEDICINE ...
THE FEAR OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES WAS A TERRIBLE THING.
200 YEARS AGO...
SUPERSTITION BORN FROM IGNORANCE WAS ALL THEY HAD.
WITH NONE OF THE ADVANCES IN MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE THAT WE HAVE TODAY, THEY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BELIEVE THAT ANY UNKNOWN DISEASE MIGHT BECOME ANOTHER EPIDEMIC.
Tch.
THEY THOUGHT JUST SHUTTING HER UP IN A DINGY OLD CELL AND CHAINING HER UP WOULD KEEP THEM SAFE...?
5
THAT GIRL'S SICKNESS ...
IF IT WERE TODAY, SHE MIGHT RECOVER IF SHE WERE GIVEN ANTIBIOTICS.
IT COULD HAVE BEEN A VERY COMMONPLACE ILLNESS.
I... CAN'T ...
IF YOU BREATHE IN THE AIR I'VE EXHALED... YOU MIGHT DIE.
FRANCINE... COME HERE...

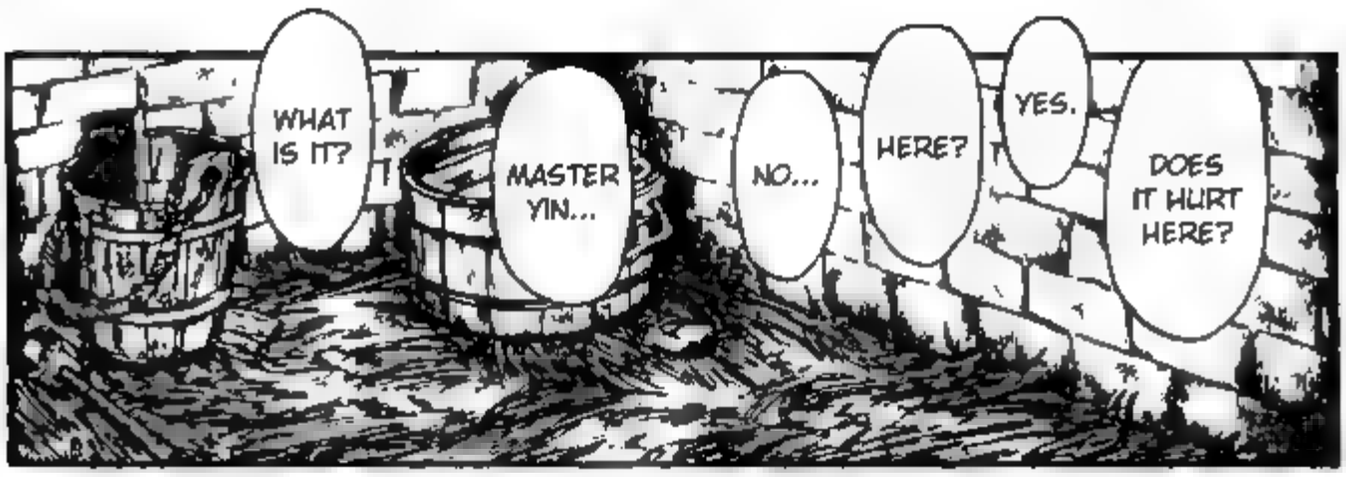
FRAN-CINE, COME HERE !!
IF I DIE HOLDING MY WIFE IN MY ARMS, THEN SO BE IT!
SO WHAT IF I DO?!
.....
ALL RIGHT.
AUG

MAS-
TER
YIN...
LISTEN...
WHATEVER
MAY HAPPEN
...
YOU
ARE
MY
WIFE.

I'M
SURE
I CAN
TREAT
YOUR
ILLNESS.
AND WHILE I
WAS SEARCHING
FOR YOU, I HAD
THE CHANCE TO
LEARN SOME OF
THE WEST'S
HEALING ARTS.
WHEN I
LIVED IN
CHINA, I
LEARNED
SOME TRA-
DITIONAL
MEDICINE
...
WHAT
?
ALL RIGHT,
I'LL TRY TO
EXAMINE YOU.
TAKE YOUR
CLOTHES OFF.

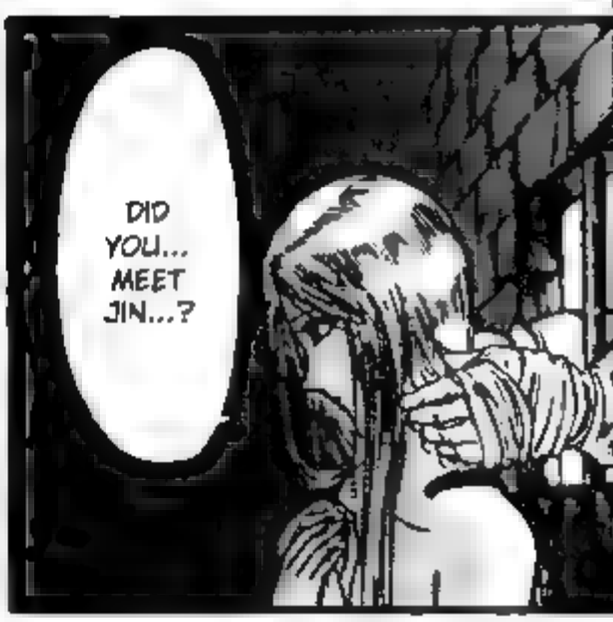
.....

LIVE TO-
GETHER
...
FRANCINE,
THIS TIME,
WE CAN
DEFINITELY
...


WHAT IS IT?
MASTER YIN...
NO...
HERE?
YES.
DOES IT HURT HERE?

I SEE ...
PLEASE... DON'T HATE HIM TOO MUCH ...

YES ...


DID YOU... MEET JIN...?

.....

THAT HIS HEART HAS NEVER BEEN AT PEACE WITH HOW THINGS TURNED OUT...
EVEN AFTER WE CAME TO THIS LAND... I'M SURE ...

I SEE... THANK YOU.
WHEN I LEFT TO LOOK FOR YOU I GAVE THEM ALL THE MONEY I HAD.
THE POOR THINGS ...
AH... WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CHILDREN?

FRAN-
CINE
...!
S-
SURE
...
MAY
I SIT
DOWN?

.....
YOU
TRIED YOUR
HARDEST
BECAUSE
MASTER
YIN IS HERE,
BUT...
YOU CAN
BARELY STAND
ANYMORE...
AND YOU PASS
OUT ALL THE
TIME...
UFUFU
...
YOU'RE
HOPE-
LESS,
FRAN-
CINE.

9

OVER
HERE! THAT
TRAVELER
SAID HE WAS
LOOKING FOR
A WOMAN!
AH, THE
DOOR IS
BROKEN
DOWN!
IT DOESN'T
RESEMBLE
ANY KNOWN
DISEASE...
I DON'T
GET IT...
WHAT IS
THIS
ILLNESS?
HER TEMPERATURE
IS HIGH... PLUS A
SLOW HEART RATE...
OCCASIONAL MENTAL
CLOUDING, MUSCLE
PAIN, HEADACHES...
AND A PALE FACE...
FRANCINE IS MUCH
WEAKER THAN
SHE LOOKS.

U
IT'S THE VILL-AGERS!
RUN, MASTER YIN!

AND WE'LL LIVE TOGETHER !!
I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE...

I'LL HEAL YOU, I SWEAR IT!
WAIT FOR ME, FRAN-CINE!

I'M SORRY ...
I...

LIVE WITH YOU...
I CAN NO LONGER ...

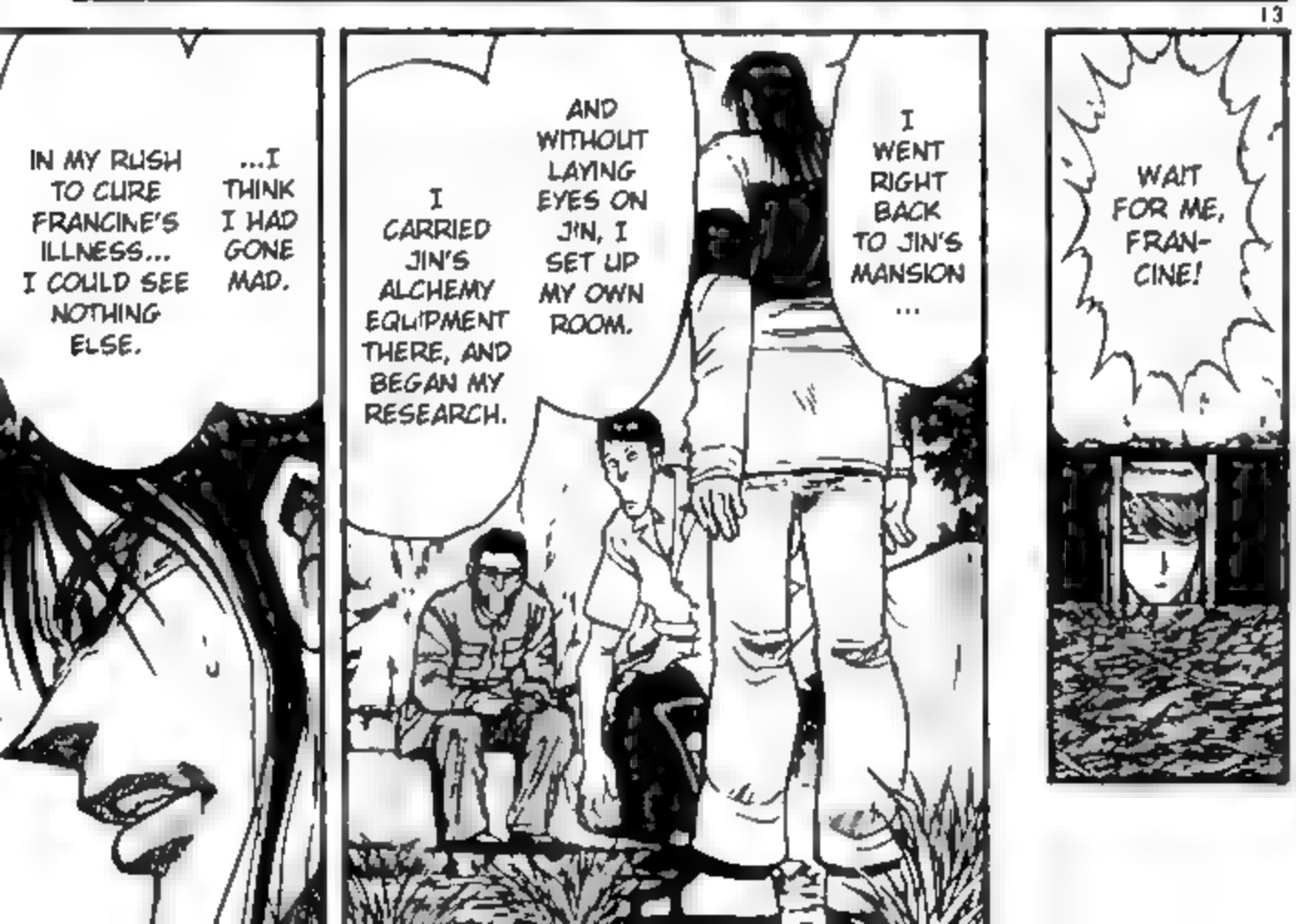
UGH...
WHY NOT ?!

FRAN-CINE ...
WHY NOT ?!

WHAT?!
PROBABLY BECAUSE SHE'S BEEN SICK FOR A LONG TIME.

I DUNNO WHAT THAT WOMAN IS TO YOU, BUT...
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ... BY WHATEVER TERRIBLE DISEASE SHE HAS?
FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR VILLAGE ...
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LET HER OUT.
SO WHAT'S WITH THE CHAINS, THEN?! SHE ISN'T LIVESTOCK!
THOSE ARE JUST TO BE SAFE...
...S'NOT LIKE WE WANTED TO...
BUT... IN OUR GRANDFATHERS' TIME, WHEN THE BLACK DEATH WAS EVERYWHERE... THIS VILLAGE WAS NEARLY WIPED OUT...
FRANCINE DOESN'T HAVE THE PLAGUE!
WHAT IS IT, THEN?!
IF SHE'D GET BETTER THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS.
I'M AN ALCHEMIST. I'LL MAKE A MEDICINE TO CURE HER!!
OKAY ... SO AS LONG AS SHE'S CURED IT'S FINE.

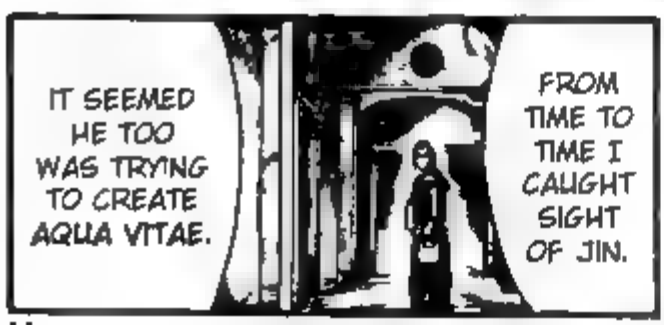
THE ULTIMATE PEAK OF ALCHEMY— THE ELIXIR THAT CURES ANY ILLNESS
THE AQUA VITAE.
I'LL PROVE IT IS!
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
THAT ...
WAIT FOR ME!
H-HEY, WAIT.
I'LL COME BACK WITH MEDICINE SOON!


IN MY RUSH TO CURE FRANCINE'S ILLNESS... I COULD SEE NOTHING ELSE.
...I THINK I HAD GONE MAD.
I CARRIED JIN'S ALCHEMY EQUIPMENT THERE, AND BEGAN MY RESEARCH.
AND WITHOUT LAYING EYES ON JIN, I SET UP MY OWN ROOM.
I WENT RIGHT BACK TO JIN'S MANSION ...
WAIT FOR ME, FRAN-CINE!

EVEN JIN HIMSELF WAS OF NO CON-SEQUENCE TO ME.

I GAVE NO THOUGHT TO THE NEEDS OF MY OWN BODY.

FOR THE SAKE OF CREATING THE AQUA VITAE...


IT SEEMED HE TOO WAS TRYING TO CREATE AQUA VITAE.
FROM TIME TO TIME I CAUGHT SIGHT OF JIN.

FRANCINE HAD ALREADY GROWN SO WEAK.
I HAD TO HURRY.

I DIDN'T SLEEP FOR DAYS. I'D PASS OUT ON MY FEET, WAKE UP ON THE GROUND, AND START WORKING AGAIN.

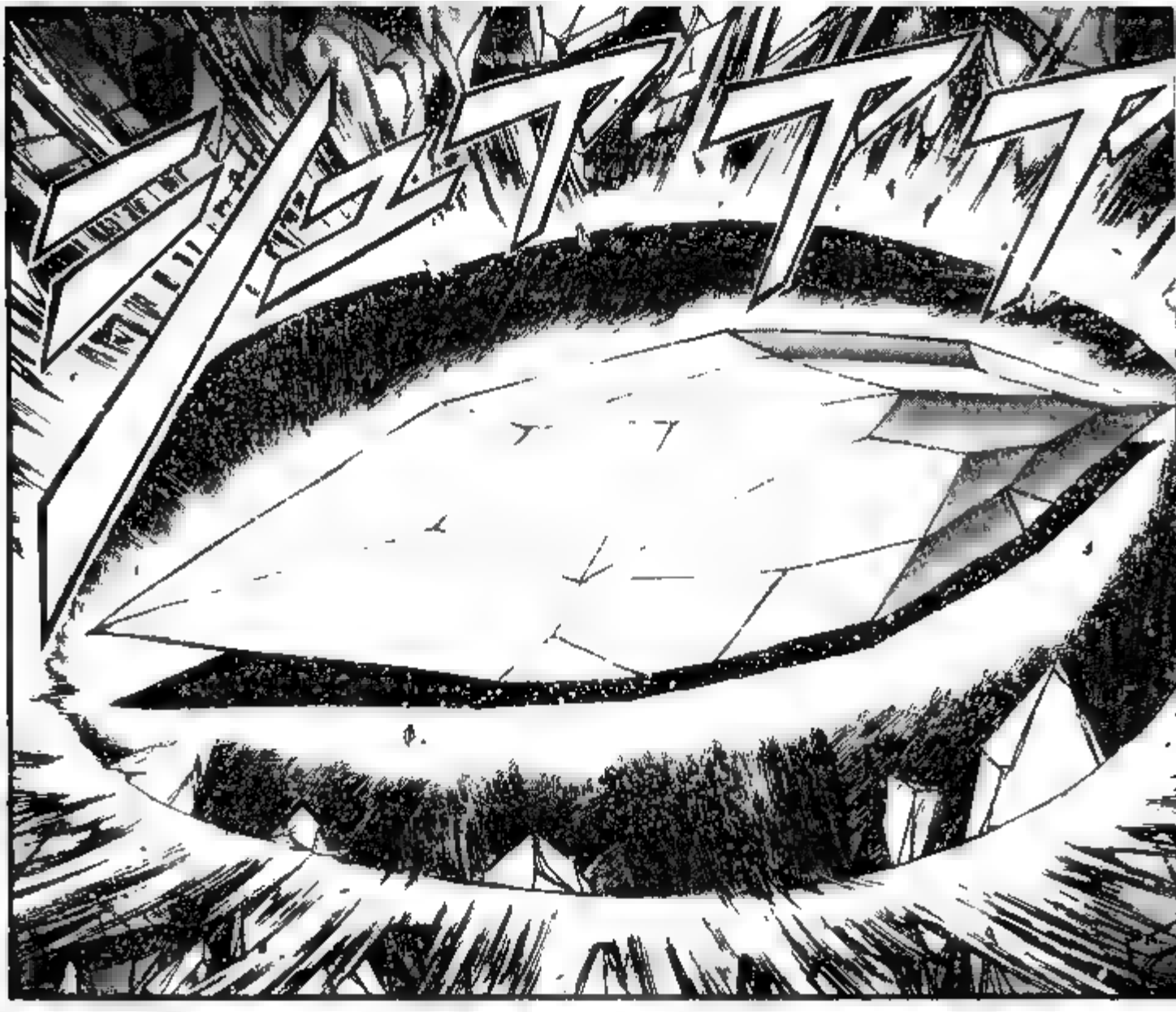
I HAD TO HURRY DOWN A ROAD I'D ABANDONED LONG AGO, AND SURPASS MY ORIGINAL STEPS.
BUT THAT TOO WAS OF NO CON-SEQUENCE TO ME.

IN ITALY, BY FORCE OF CIRCUMSTANCE, I AIDED A PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FERRARA, WHO LET ME IN ON SOME OF THE MOST CURRENT MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE.
ALONG MY JOURNEY TO FIND FRANCINE, I'D HAD MANY DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES, THROUGH GOOD LUCK AND BAD.

COMBINING THE WISDOM OF LIAN DAN FROM MY TIME IN CHINA AND THE VARIED TYPES OF KNOWLEDGE I HAD GAINED ALONG THE WAY...
TO EARN TRAVELING EXPENSES, I ASSISTED IN THE EXPERIMENTS OF A YOUNG SCIENTIST FROM HOLLAND.

...AND THE DARK CLOUDS BEGAN TO DISSIPATE
I BREATHED A NEW WIND INTO THE ALCHEMY I HAD STUDIED FROM OUR TEACHER IN PRAGUE

AND THEN
I'LL CURE YOUR ILLNESS, AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE TOGETHER"
THAT'S NOT TRUE, FRANCINE.
I CAN NO LONGER LIVE WITH YOU


THE OB-
JECT THAT
PRODUCES
THE AQUA
VITAE...
OHHH...

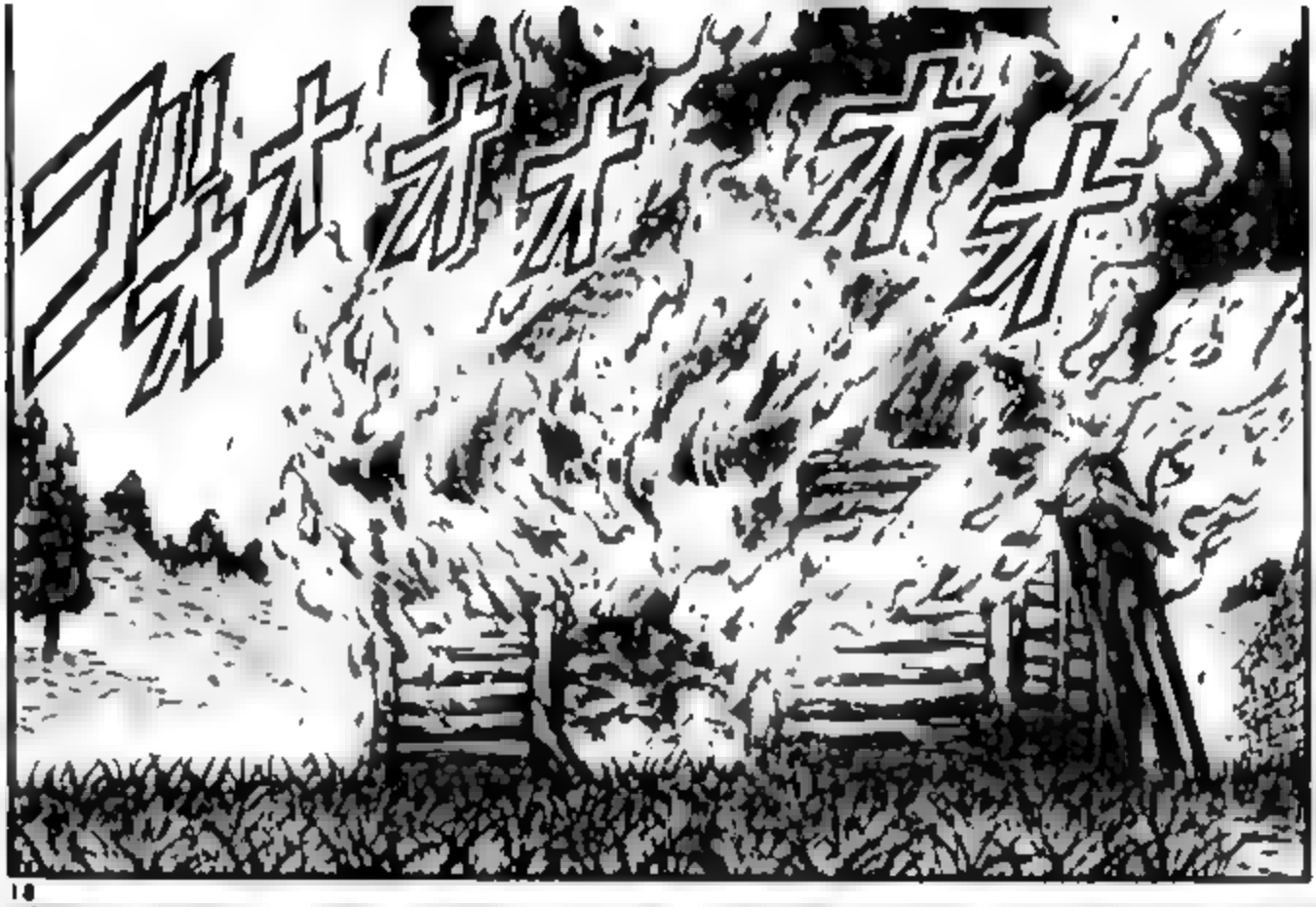
THE SOFT
STONE
WAS BORN
INTO THIS
WORLD.
THE
ACCUMULATION
OF ALL THE
SECRETS OF
ALCHEMY—

SOME-
WHERE IN
THE MANSION
THERE WAS
THE SOUND
OF A DOOR
OPENING,
BUT I PAID
IT NO HEED,
AND I DIDN'T
STOP.
I
SET OFF
RUNNING.
I HAD
TO GIVE
FRANCINE
THE AQUA
VITAE AS
SOON AS
POSSIBLE.

FRANCINE
AND I ARE
GOING TO LIVE
TOGETHER!!
I
DID IT! I
CREATED A
MEDICINE!

NO
...
!!

...IT
CAN'T
BE!!



translation by funnjraba tumblr com

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

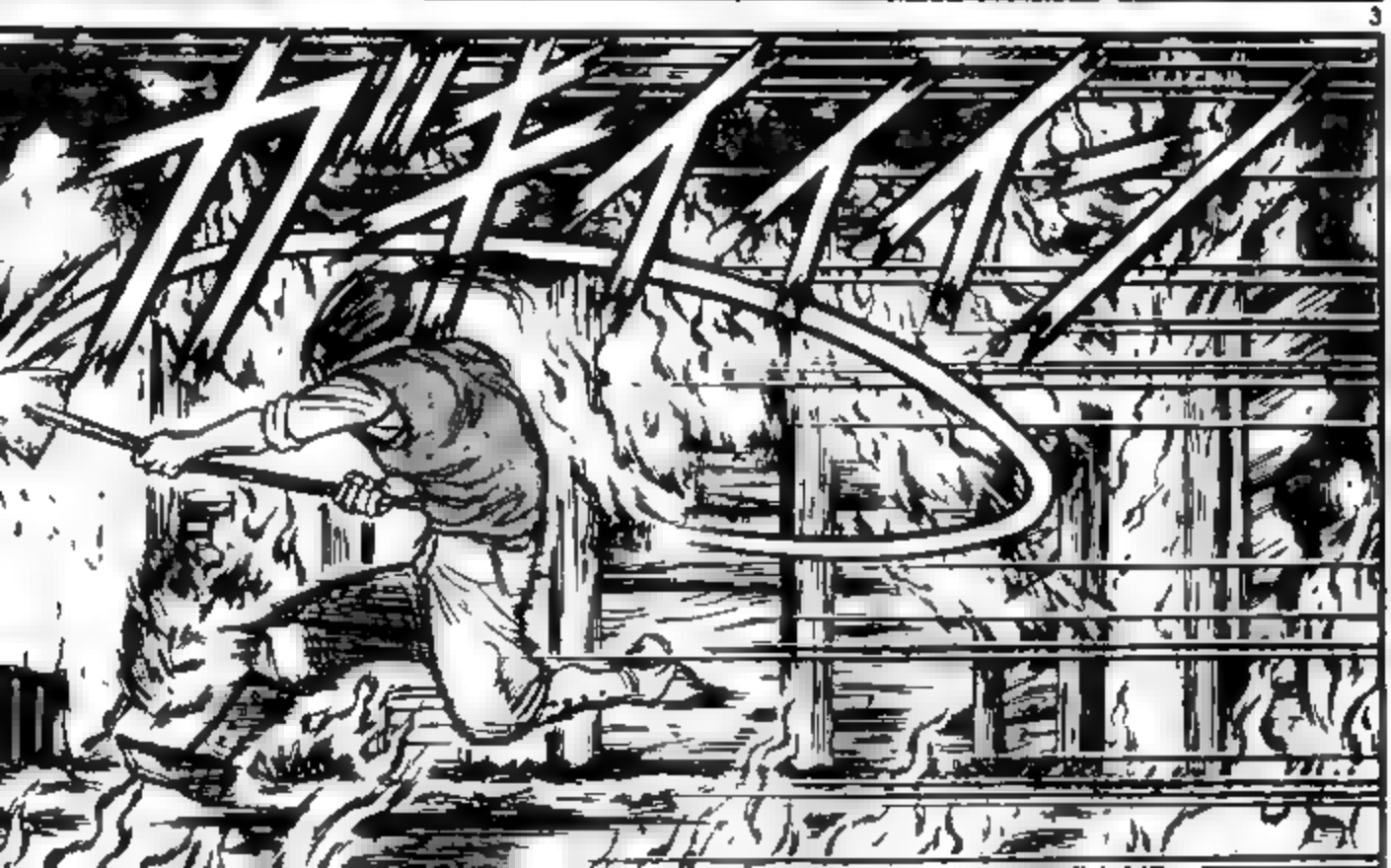
Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves

YOUR ILL-NESS !!
I'M GONNA HEAL !!
FRANCINE, NO...!!
NO...
Act 12
The Angel Returns To Heaven
THAT'S WHY I CREATED THE SOFT STONE!
WHY... WHY... IS THIS HAPPENING?!
SO THE AQUA VITAE IT PRODUCES CAN MAKE YOU HEALTHY AGAIN!

第12幕
天使が還る

WE JUST GOT HERE TOO...!
WE'D NEVER DO SOME-THING THAT TERRIBLE.
W-WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING ...!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?! DID YOU GUYS SET A FIRE TO PURGE THE DISEASE?! IS THAT IT?!

FRAN-CINE!!
AH, WAIT A SECOND! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THEN... WHO ON EARTH ...?!



I DID IT! I CREATED A MEDICINE!
A MEDICINE THAT CAN CURE ANYTHING !!
FRANCINE, I'M HERE TO SAVE YOU!
IN THAT CASE, MASTER YIN...
NOT JUST THAT, YOU'LL LIVE LONGER THAN ANYONE ELSE!
IF YOU JUST DRINK IT YOUR ILLNESS WILL BE CURED...

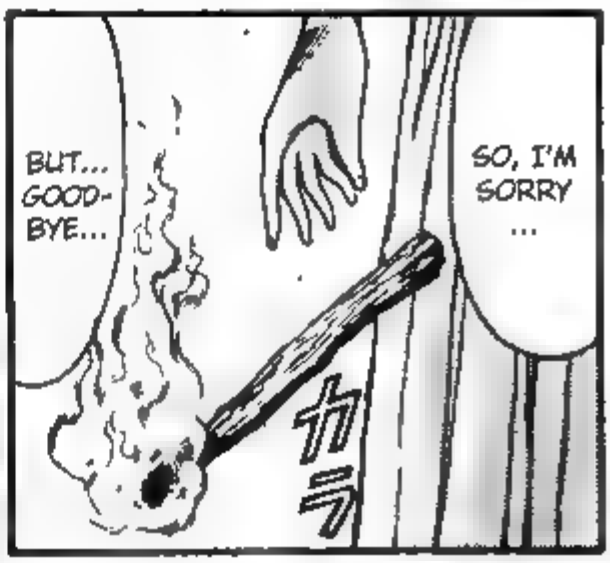
GIVE THAT MEDICINE TO PEOPLE WHO NEED IT MORE...
HER HAIR?!
FRANCINE!!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT AT ALL!!
THAT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!
MAS-TER YIN ...
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DON'T YOU ...?
...I LIVED TOGETHER WITH JIN FOR NINE YEARS...
BUT I LIVED TOGETHER WITH JIN. EVEN THOUGH I KNEW YOUR HEART WAS ACHING...
I PLEDGED MYSELF TO YOU BEFORE GOD...
PLEASE ... STOP ...
YOU SAID THAT WITH THAT MEDICINE, I'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE LONGER ...
FRAN-CINE !!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, FRANCINE ...?
THOSE NINE YEARS CANNOT BE ERASED.

WITH A LONG LIFE LIKE THAT...!
I JUST WOULDN'T KNOW ...
WHAT TO DO ...

BUT... SINCE I CANNOT LIVE TOGETHER WITH YOU...
EVEN IF MY ILLNESS IS CURED ...

WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING IF YOU DON'T LIVE, FRANCINE!!
BUT... BUT...


BUT... GOOD-BYE...
SO, I'M SORRY ...
カラ

SOMEDAY A TIME WILL COME WHEN YOU CAN LAUGH AGAIN!
IF YOU JUST LIVE WE'LL MAKE IT WORK SOMEHOW!

DON'T LEAVE ME ALONE!
FRAN-CINE!
SHIT ...
THE WALL'S TOO TOUGH ...!
DO YOU REMEM-BER THAT CARNIVAL?
SAY... MASTER YIN...

IT WAS FUN, WASN'T IT?
THE THREE OF US ...
YOUR PUPPET SHOW ...

THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME.
THANK YOU FOR MAKING ME LAUGH SO MUCH
AND...
THANK YOU FOR MEETING ME
THANK YOU FOR SPEAKING TO ME
THERE NEVER WAS ANOTHER CARNIVAL AS FUN AS THAT ONE
F-FRANCINE
MASTER YIN

DON'T LEAVE ME!!

FRANCINE, DON'T DIE ...
NO... NO...

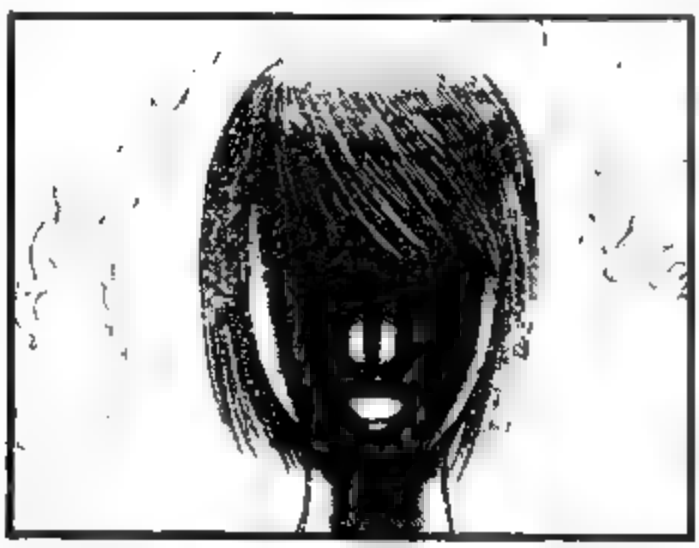
AND YOU NEVER OPEN YOUR HEART TO LET YOUR FEELINGS SHOW.
AND COLD ...
YOU'RE PRIDE-FUL ...
...AND THAT'S WHY...
ゴオオ

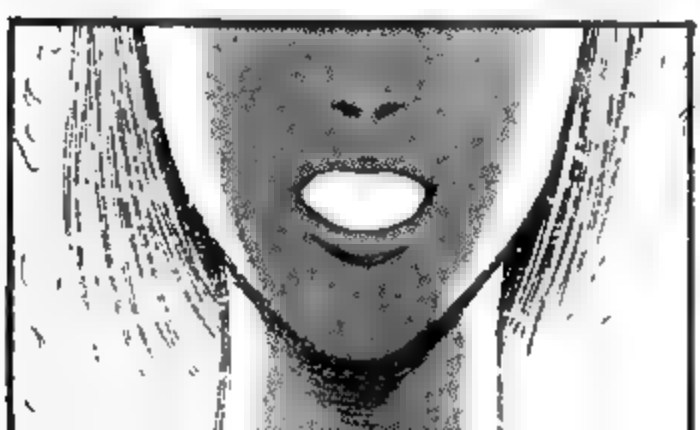
ALL RIGHT ...

I'LL HAVE TO MAKE MYSELF HATE YOU, THEN...
ウオ

AHH...
THIS IS TOO HARD FOR ME...

ONE DAY...
YOU'LL HAVE TO MEET ME AGAIN.

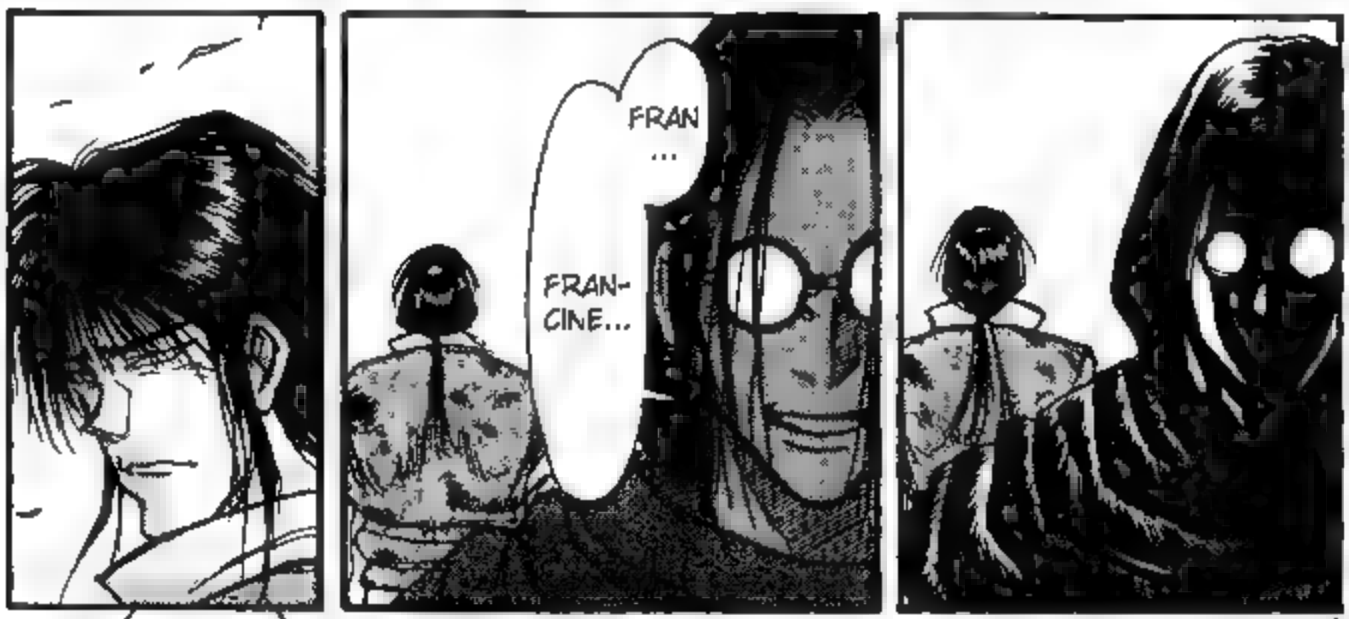




12

オオ オ
オ

.....
YOU... CREATED ONE TOO, HUH...

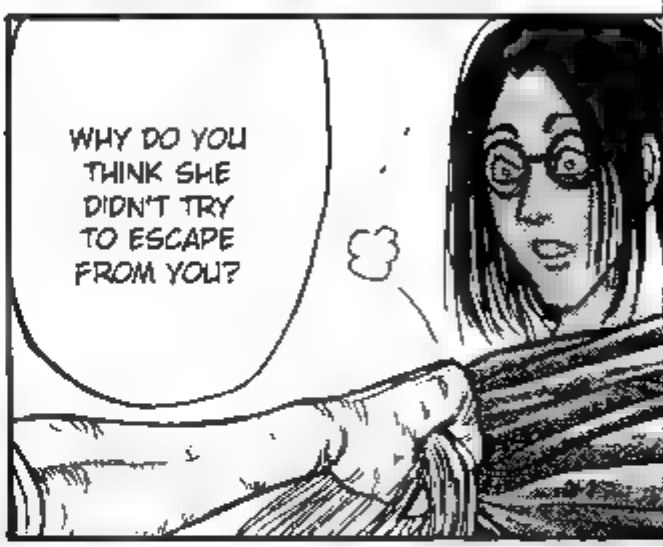

FRAN
...
FRAN-
CINE...

WAS
YOURS
FROM
THE VERY
BEGINNING
...
EVERY-
THING I
WANTED
...
BRO-
THER
...
...SHE
NEVER
LOVED
ME, NOT
FOR ONE
MOMENT
...

...YOU'RE WRONG...

ヒュウウ

FRANCINE'S HEART BLESSED YOU WITH LOVE TOO, WITHOUT A DOUBT.
.....

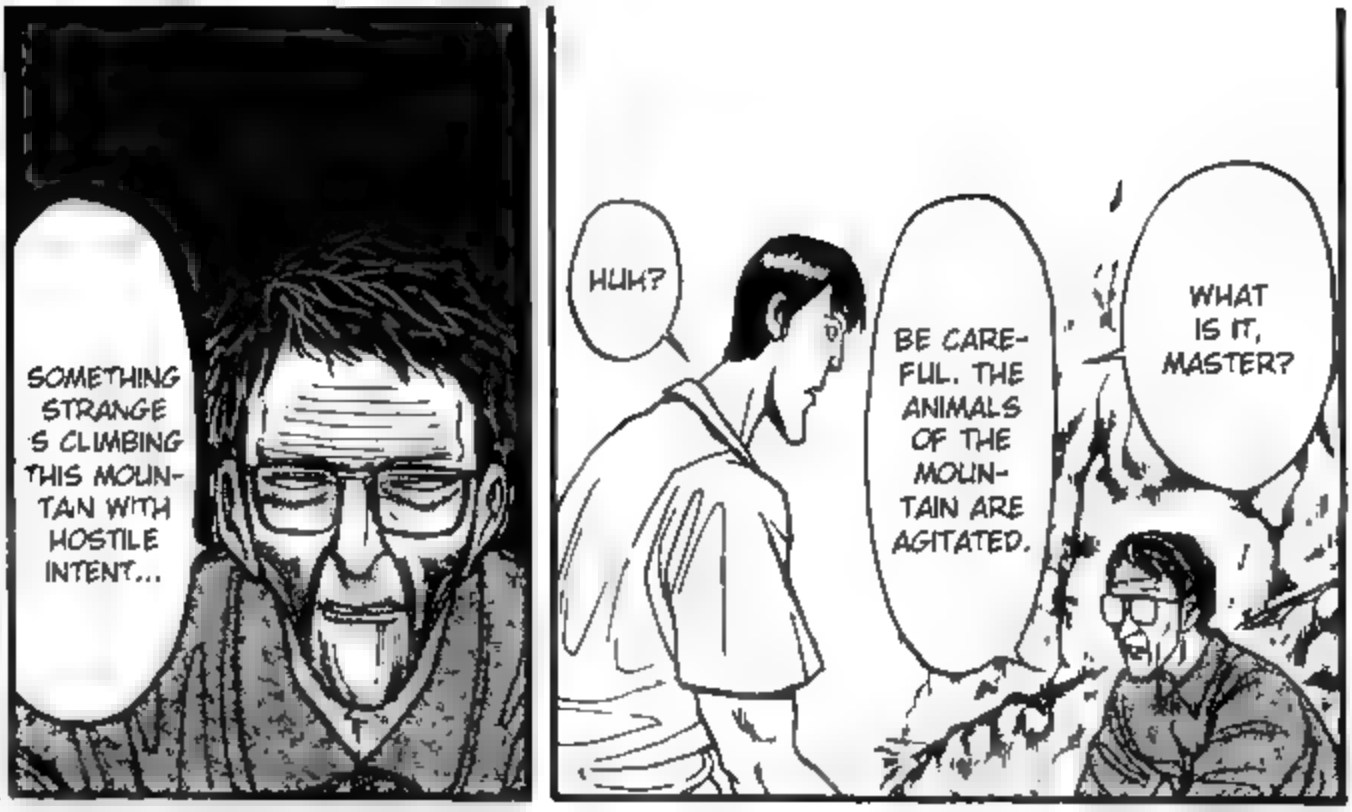

WHY DO YOU THINK SHE DIDN'T TRY TO ESCAPE FROM YOU?

NEVER NOTICED IT, JIN...
YOU JUST ...

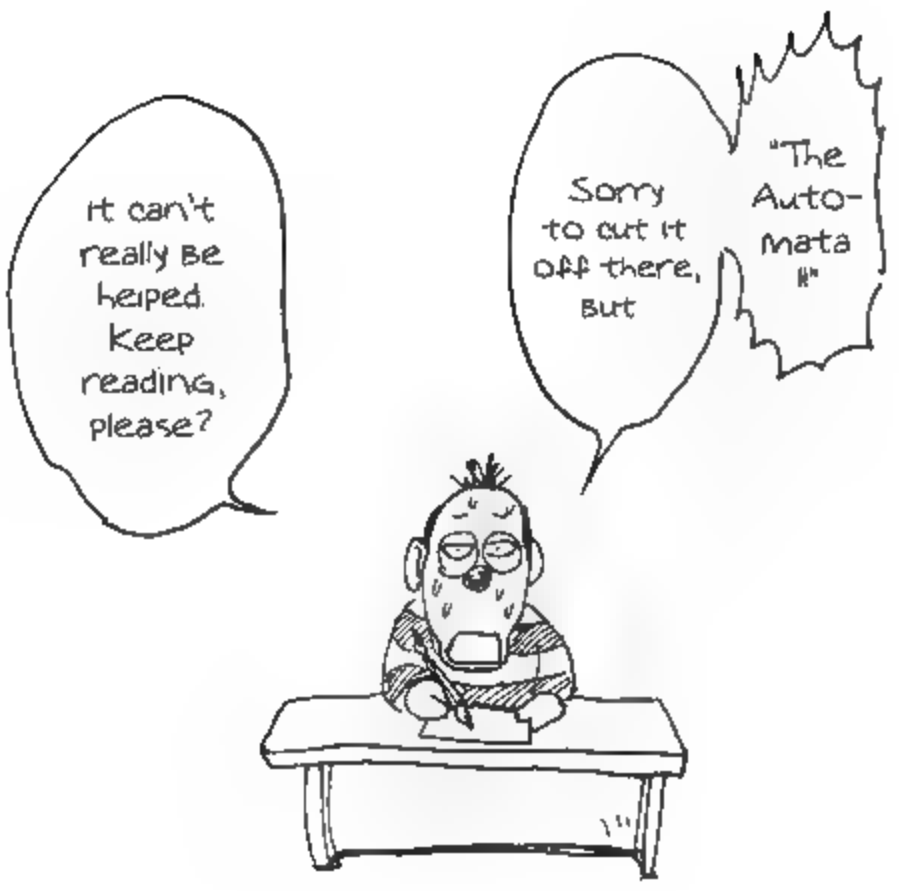
WE BROTHERS PARTED WAYS...
NEVER TO MEET AGAIN.
ON THAT SPRING DAY...
AS THE FIELD MUSTARD BLOOMED IN QUIBERON ...

NEVER AGAIN ...

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE... I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT.
NOT THAT STORY... AND NOT YOU, MING-HAI.
WANG.



〈掲載・週刊少年サンデー平成12年26号より平成12年35号まで〉



Karakuri Circus 4 Panel Theater

からくり サーカス 4コマ 劇場

by ふぶきたかつひろ

by Ufudzita Kadzuhirou

Ending Bonus

Liese-chan

By Fudzita Kadzuhirou

リーゼちゃん

ふじたかずひろ

Since Japanese is difficult.
She's practicing her introduction as a transfer student.
I am Talanda Lieselotte Tachibana. My specialty is the trading of large varnicores—the draining of glarge varnivores
Varge... Larnivores...
Larve... Cornivares... Clarge Varnivores...!
Since Japanese is difficult.
Liese-san, don't push yourself if it's impossible.
Japanese is quite difficult, young master.
Isn't that a lie?
My specialty is dancing.
I'm Liese-lotte.

Vilma-san

ヴィルマさん

Fudzita Kadzuhiro

ふじたかずひろ

What's the matter?
Help meee
Gah! I drank some too.
Nori-san drank some of Vilma-san's beer.
wehehehe
The one Nori-san drank had been open for three days.
Hahaha... but what I drank was already open and lukewarm. So no big. Hahaha.
That's not the issue.
Vilma-san is pretty stingy.
Help meee

Fudzita-shan

ふぢたしゃん

ふぢた かづひろ

Fudzita Kadzuhiro

4 panel manga is too hard for me after all!
What's wrong?
Mgwa hao
But... you can't write just 3 gags for a 4 panel theater.
Kishou-tenketsu... Aaaahh...
Ki! Shou! Ten! Ketsu!
Ki! Shou! Ten! Ke-tsu!
Waa, someone help!
Is this a lesson not to try new things?
Shoukishou-tenketsu-ketsu
Sigh

This wasn't very good. It really wasn't. Please read volume 16. I'd be happy if you did.

Shirogane-san

しろがねさん

ふぢた かづひろ

Fudzita Kadzuhiro

Shiro-gane...
It's a lonely feeling...
Young master, I am not capable of boisterous laughter.
Gyahahaha
M-maybe you should practice a little more...
Wah. You scared me
Is this how it's done?
How's this?
Are you maybe having a little fun with us, Shirogane?

からくりサーカス⑮

少年サンデーコミックス

2000年12月15日初版第1刷発行　（検印廃止）

著　者　藤田和日郎
©Kazuhiro Fujita　2000
発行者　亀井　修

印刷所　中央精版印刷株式会社

PRINTED IN JAPAN

発行所　(101-8001)東京都千代田区一ツ橋二の三の一　株式会社 小学館
振替(00180—1—200)
TEL　販売03(3230)5749 編集03(3230)5480

●造本には十分注意しておりますが、落丁・乱丁（本のページの抜け落ちや順序の間違い）の場合はお取り替えいたします。購入された書店名を明記して「制作部」あてにお送りください。送料小社負担にてお取り替えいたします。　制作部（TEL　0120-336-082）
●本書の一部あるいは全部を無断で複製・転載・上演・放送等をすることは、法律で認められた場合を除き、著作者および出版者の権利の侵害となります。あらかじめ小社あて許諾をお求めください。
R〔日本複写権センター委託出版物〕
本書の一部または全部を無断で複写（コピー）することは、著作権法上での例外を除き禁じられています。複写を希望される場合は、日本複写権センター（TEL　03-3401-2382）にご連絡ください。
ISBN4—09—125685—6

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

pg. 23: Kishoutenketsu is a four-stage structure used in classic Japanese storytelling and composition, and also in 4 koma manga. It roughly translates to "Introduction, Development, Twist, Conclusion."

(Fujita writes his name several different ways in the bonus. I don't know the reason for this.)

That's another volume done! Thank you all for sticking with me this long!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.